

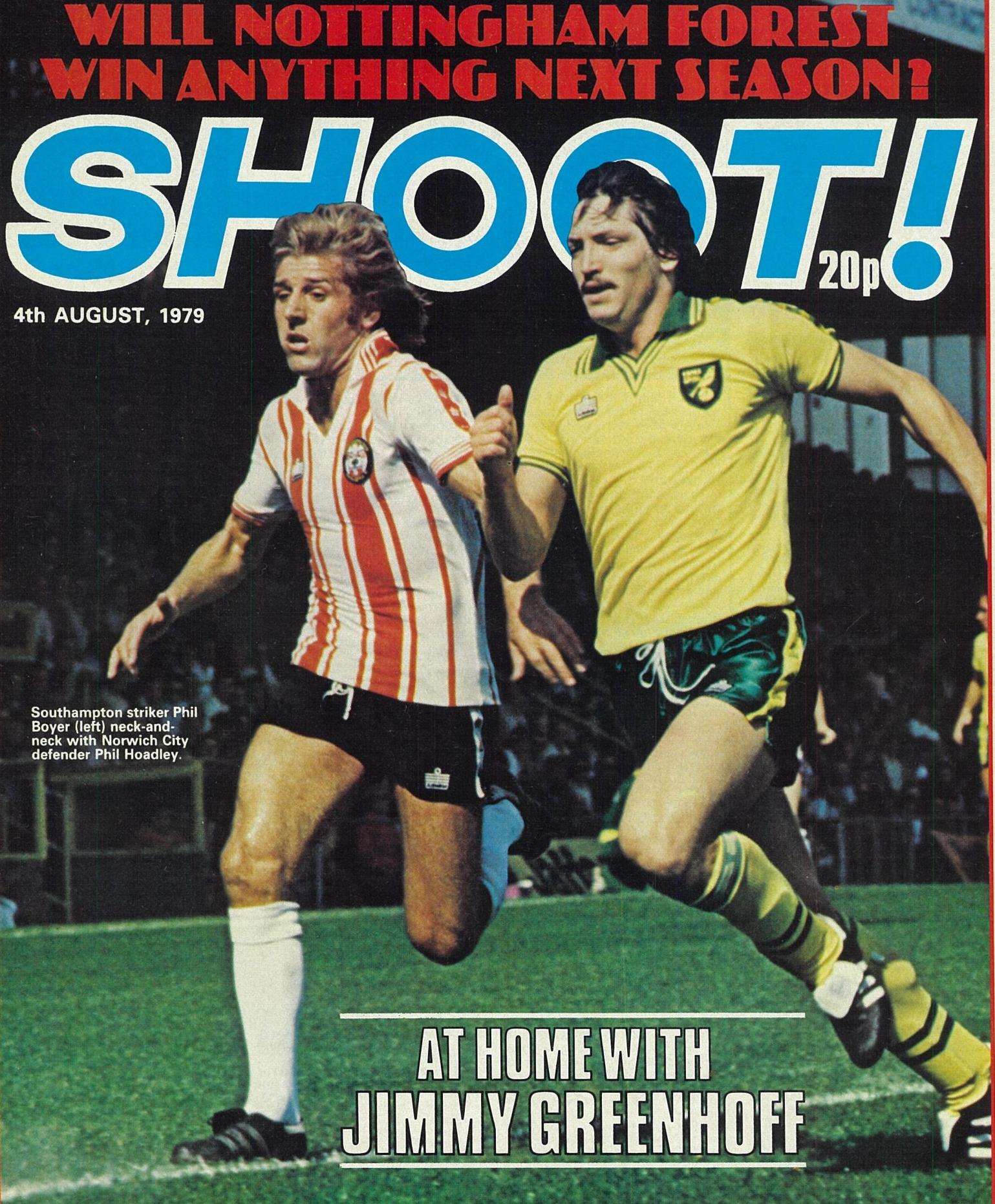
**WILL NOTTINGHAM FOREST
WIN ANYTHING NEXT SEASON?**

SHOOT!

20p

4th AUGUST, 1979

Southampton striker Phil Boyer (left) neck-and-neck with Norwich City defender Phil Hoadley.



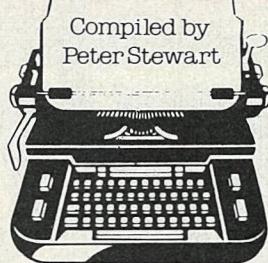
**AT HOME WITH
JIMMY GREENHOFF**

REAL MADRID—

*Laurie Cunningham's
new club*

NEWS

Compiled by
Peter Stewart



DESK

NICK SULLIVAN, a young goalkeeper on Arsenal's books, is hoping that next season will be kinder to him than the last.

The 18-year-old 'keeper was picked to play for an England Youth team near the end of the season after putting up some outstanding displays, but had to cry off because of an arm injury.

But he has one claim to fame. He played in the winning team in the Pontins five-a-sides at Wembley in 1977 and won the Man-of-the-Match award.

Swearing Ban

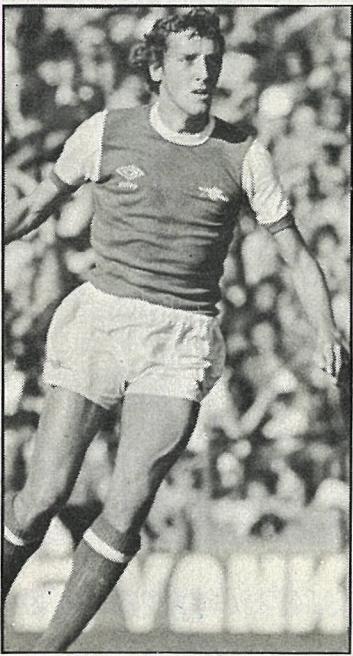
JOHN BARNWELL does not like bad language and has laid down a code of conduct at Wolves, banning this kind of talk on and off the field.

The Wolves boss said: "We have got to make Wolves a great club again and we must set the right example on and off the field."

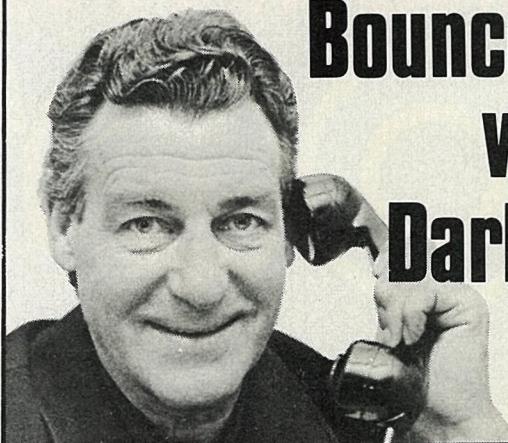
"By setting this example I am hoping the supporters will follow suit. We are building a new stadium here at Molineux and I want a quality team and quality supporters to go with it."

DAVE SERELLA and Steve Waddington (Walsall), Mike Baxter (Preston), Jeff Bryant (Wimbledon), Pat Kruse (Brentford) and Sammy Nelson (below, Arsenal) had a record in common during the 1978-79 season.

They each scored for both sides in the same game.



Billy Elliott Aims to Bounce Back with Darlington



BILLY ELLIOTT did not take long to bounce back into football. Two weeks after being shown the door by Sunderland, the 54-year-old Elliott moved down the road to take over as manager of Darlington.

The much-travelled Elliott was thrilled to be back in business so soon. He welcomed the new challenge: "It is the first time I have been involved with a Fourth Division club. I want to put past events well behind me, and try to win promotion for Darlington."

His appointment left Len Walker angry and disillusioned. Darlington fired the 33-year-old Walker two weeks after a vote of confidence. Chairman Leslie Moore had dismissed Elliott speculation and promised "a fair

chance" to Walker after a dreadful winter.

Moore said the club and the manager had suffered the frustrations of the winter freeze-up. Darlington appealed for the sympathetic support of other clubs over their re-election appeal at the annual meeting of the Football League. Yet they offered no sympathy to Walker.

The former Aldershot player was kicked out, in the middle of transfer negotiations, after only six months in the "hot seat" of Feethams. Peter Madden was sacked in the first half of last season.

Moore announced after the Elliott appointment: "We need instant success."

Best of luck, Billy!

PETER HUTTON, the former Finn Harps player who was banned from football for five years after punching a referee, almost got a reprieve.

U.E.F.A. declared a general amnesty to mark their 25th anniversary and Hutton's sentence was cut to three years.

He would have been able to play again in 1981. Sadly for Peter, U.E.F.A. booted; Hutton is suspended by the Irish F.A., not U.E.F.A., so they couldn't grant an amnesty.

Peter's ban still stays and he is suspended until November 14th, 1983, which applies to all U.E.F.A. games.

Superfan

DO you remember me mentioning (SHOOT issue 10th December, 1977) in News Desk that Mike Brady of 6 Westfield Road, Bradninch, Nr. Exeter, was on a Marathon Tour of all 92 English League clubs to raise funds (one penny from sponsors for each ground he visits) for Exeter City?

Mike not only sees his own club play at home and away but he also watched other clubs' games as he plotted the grand tour which started in August, 1975.

Well, now he has only three grounds left to visit — Preston, Wigan and Manchester United. His last match will be at Old Trafford in October.

His determination to complete the arduous task is a credit to him and we understand that Manchester United will ensure that Exeter's number one fan has a fitting finale.

THE Football Association are considering an idea that will help the grassroots of the game. To develop talent, and encourage junior clubs, the F.A. may make it a condition that full members enter a team in the F.A. Youth Cup. Outside of the Football League, there are hundreds of the non-League clubs full members of the parent body.

Monty still in First

JIM MONTGOMERY (right) was not very happy to see Birmingham City relegated last season. He himself will be staying in the First Division — with Nottingham Forest.

His move on a free transfer to Forest is one of the best signings made in recent weeks and indicates the astuteness of Brian Clough and Peter Taylor.

They needed some experienced cover for Peter Shilton and Montgomery was the man for them. They fully realise that such experienced players are few and far between.

BERWICK RANGERS, Scottish Second Division Champions, have transferred winger Peter Davidson to Queens Park Rangers for £30,000 which is a record sum for the Shielfield club.

JON SAMMELS, the former Arsenal and Leicester midfield player, is making a dream come true for a boys' football team from the Leicestershire area.

Thurcote have been invited to send a team to British Columbia for a fortnight's five-match tour. The boys will stay in Burnaby as guests of a team called Cliff Avenue United.

The tour arrangements have been made by Sammels, who is playing in the North American Soccer League for Vancouver Whitecaps.

One of the tour party is 16-year-old Gary Olivant, who has recently signed apprentice forms for Leicestershire City.

Another United Ulsterman

MANCHESTER UNITED have had countless Northern Ireland stars on their illustrious books down the years, including top-rate schoolboy captures like George Best, Jackie Blanchflower, Jimmy Nicholson, Sammy McIlroy and Jimmy Nicholl.

And yet another talented Ulsterman, promising forward prospect Alan McFall, has teamed up with the ever-increasing Irish "colony" at Old Trafford. A former Northern Ireland Schoolboy cap, 16-year-old Alan possesses a lot of class and potential, and looks set to follow in the stardom-bound footsteps of so many of his renowned predecessors.

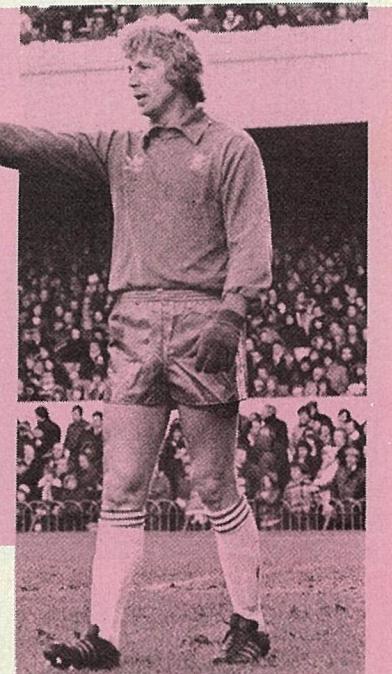
MASS WALK-OUT

MANY Football League teams will begin the new season deprived of key players who have moved on after negotiating new contracts with other clubs, but none will be as hard hit as Midland Combination members, Rowley Regis F.C.

Their problems began when the team-manager announced that he was quitting to take over neighbouring Smethwick Highfield F.C. who share Rowley's ground.

The club's trainer/coach immediately followed suit — and then came the killer blow when the entire playing staff walked out of the club to rejoin their boss.

The mass exodus has forced Rowley Regis officials to reconsider their application to play local League football next term and the whole future of the club is in serious doubt.



MARK Newson, 18-year-old Charlton defender, is hoping to have as much success with the South London club as he did in his last season with his Sunday team — Poplar Boys Club.

Newson, who first linked up with Charlton as a 16-year-old after having attachments with Queens Park Rangers and Millwall, won four out of five competitions in his final year at Poplar.

AUSSIE HOT LINE

DUNCAN McKay the former Celtic and Aberdeen defender is now coach of South Melbourne in the Phillip's Soccer League of Australia.

LIVERPOOL'S long-serving midfielder Ian Callaghan is now appearing for Canberra City in the Phillip's Soccer League. He has signed a two year contract and is being sponsored by Dunlop footwear company.

ALUN Evans, ex-Liverpool and Wolves forward could become Australia's most expensive player. South Melbourne have transfer listed the unsettled Evans at \$50,000. The previous record was broken this season when Apia signed Rosario Rampanti for \$40,000 from Italy's Bologna.

RUDI Gutendorf, the man who first coached Kevin Keegan at Hamburger S.V. is now the coach of the Socceroos. The tough German has injected discipline into the Australian national squad, so overcoming one of the reasons why Australia failed in 1978.

China in Britain

THE CHINA national side kick-off their tour of Britain next Wednesday (August 1st) against West Brom at The Hawthorns. Then they play Middlesbrough on August 4th, Celtic on the 8th and Chelsea on the 13th. This is the result of West Brom's successful visit to China last summer.

A SPORTING gesture from Cup giant-killers Blyth Spartans. After winning a playing strip in a good conduct award scheme, they handed it over to the Northern League. The strip will be used by the representative XI of this famous North-East League.

Attendances Up

LUCRATIVE sponsorship of the four major competitions open to all 12 senior Northern Ireland outfits has revitalised the Ulster game in the last year, especially in the crowd-appeal charts.

Even in the country's worst-ever footballing winter, during which countless fixtures were re-arranged because of the atrocious weather conditions, match attendance figures showed a significant and welcome increase of around the 50,000 mark, quite sizeable by Ulster standards.

Old Firm rivals still battling it out

FORMER Glasgow stars Jimmy Johnstone and Willie Henderson fought out many hard battles during their days with Celtic and Rangers.

Although they no longer turn out for the Old Firm clubs, the two ex-Scotland wingers can still fight a tough match with

the competition as intense ... as they proved on the sandy trotting circuit at Corbie Wood, Bannockburn recently.

Henderson's powerful driving just paid off over wee Johnstone (left), who had difficulty seeing over his mount's rump.



Cup of Woe

WHICH senior club has the worst Cup record in Britain? Scottish Division Two side Stenhousemuir must be favourites — they haven't won a Scottish Cup-tie for TEN YEARS.

And they haven't exactly been badly drawn against Scotland's big boys, either. They have been KO'd by non-Leaguers like Elgin, Galashiels and Inverness Caley among other small outfits.

Yet, according to secretary Jimmy Weir, the club still gets money out of the Cup. "Because we are knocked out early every year we collect a share of the five per cent levy the S.F.A. puts on all other ties, so we just about break even," he says.

But, despite the club's record, he is all for the big clubs being involved right from the off instead of coming in after the first two rounds.

"Surely the Cup should be all about the glamour clubs coming to the small grounds and showing the locals what they are made of," he says. "That's why I want an all-in draw right from the off."

THE English Schools Football Association are advertising for a secretary to succeed Mr Glyn Evans, who has announced his retirement.

An appointment for the full-time post is likely to be announced in September.

LEEDS United have been showing interest in Partick Thistle's versatile Scotland Under-23 cap Bobby Houston.

Why Burnley sold Morley

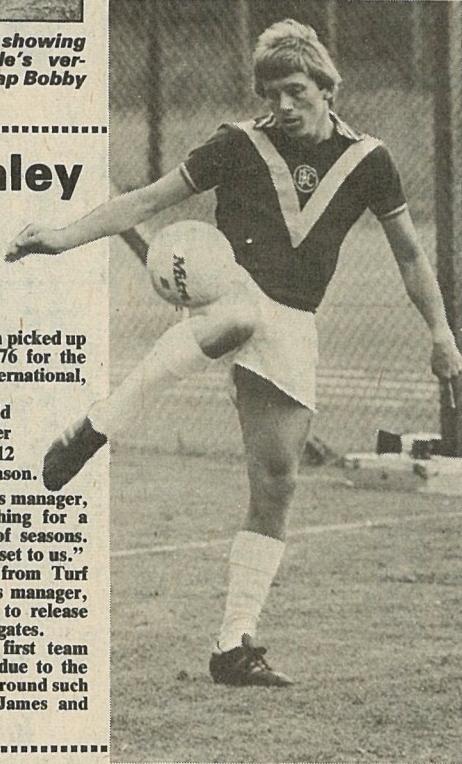
THE cost of inflation? Preston picked up £100,000 from Burnley in 1976 for the former England Under-23 international, Tony Morley.

Aston Villa have now paid Burnley £200,000 for the player despite the fact he only made 12 first team appearances last season.

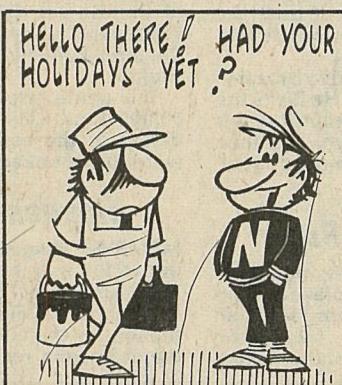
Ron Saunders, Aston Villa's manager, said: "We have been searching for a winger for the past couple of seasons. Tony Morley could be a big asset to us."

The reason for his move from Turf Moor? Harry Potts, Burnley's manager, said: "We have been forced to release players because of our small gates."

"The reason for his few first team appearances last season was due to the fact we had experienced men around such as Steve Kindon, Leighton James and Paul Fletcher."



NOBBY



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Yes, I'm sure you will agree SHOOT remains great value for money for soccer fans everywhere.

David Gregory
EDITOR

Der Bomber on target

GERD MULLER hasn't had too much trouble adjusting to soccer in the States.

Müller, who could score goals on the moon if they ever start playing soccer there, has a tremendous record in his first season of play in the NASL.

In just 11 games, he's scored eight goals and made 10 more for a total of 26 scoring points.

He says: "I feel a lot more comfortable now with the American way of playing soccer. It is different here and it takes a little while to get used to it. But now I am confident we can have a good season at Fort Lauderdale."

Müller could well end up as the top scorer in the American Conference. He is currently in third place, four points behind leader David Robb of Philadelphia. But Robb has played six more games than the West German.

SOCCER in the STATES

High-flying Kicks

MINNESOTA Kicks, who have former Birmingham boss Freddie Goodwin as president, are the most successful team in America at the moment.

They have 130 points from 20 games, a better record than even the Cosmos.

It's a tremendous first season for Roy McCrohan, once of Luton. And he could lead his team all the way to the Soccer Bowl.

Minnesota have won their Division in all of their three years in the NASL, a League record. And it's as good as certain that they'll make it four this year.

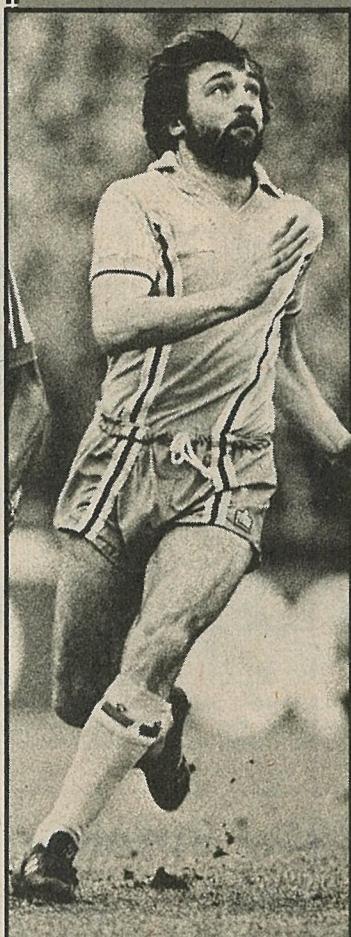
They have no one to fear. They beat the Cosmos 3-2 recently, their second win over the Champions in a year. They slaughtered the New York club 7-2 in last summer's playoffs.

Stars go to Florida

IT used to be Majorca... but now Florida seems to be the place for soccer personalities to take their holidays.

Amongst those who have been soaking up the sun in Tampa are Bobby Campbell (Fulham manager), Lawrie McMenemy (Southampton manager), Bobby Robson (Ipswich manager), Willie Donachie (Manchester City), Martin Buchan and Steve Coppell (Manchester United), plus Joe Corrigan and Bob Wilson, who were filming a goalkeepers coaching special.

Further down the coast, at Fort Lauderdale, Dave Sexton (Manchester Utd.), Tommy Langley (Chelsea), Ron Atkinson (West Brom) and Terry Venables (Crystal



GREEN MAKES COSMOS HOPES DIP

Dips topping them this summer.

For that, they have Green and Cannell to thank. The British pair have accounted for almost half the club's 43 goals so far.

Despite missing eight games because of injury, ex-Coventry striker Green has 11 goals and assists.

Cannell, who has also missed five games through injury, has eight goals and five assists.

It's the powerful Cannell who does all the physical work upfront, taking the knocks and making chances for his partner.

The former Newcastle striker — he signed full time for Washington last year — says: "I'm basically an aggressive player. My job is to stir up the broth and make things happen."

"I know some people claim I'm the roughest player in the League. But I don't mind that as long as they don't call me a dirty player. I never go out to intentionally hurt anyone."

"I'm often a victim of circumstances. I've developed a reputation with certain referees and they look out for me."

It's not surprising Cannell has a reputation with referees after showing his backside to one in a game last year. That piece of bare-faced cheek got him a ten-day suspension.

He also had the dubious distinction of perpetrating a club record 102 fouls in Washington's colours

last term.

He doesn't claim to have the skill and the quickness of his scoring pal Green. He says: "My heading ability is my main strength. I don't really jump that well, but my timing is exact."

"I have a knack for scoring, but I don't consider myself a particularly skilful player. I try to play to my limitations."

The Diplomats are confident they can knock the Cosmos off their Divisional perch this season and with any luck, take their national title as well.

The only big disappointment for them is the apathy of the fans in the U.S. capital. They've been averaging just under 10,000 this season.

Gulf and Western, the oil giants who own Madison Square Garden and added the Diplomats to their list of possessions this season, aren't amused.

They're so little amused that they're thinking of moving the franchise lock, stock and kit bag next season.

Sonny Werblin, the club's new owner says: "I don't see any signs of growth in support so far."

The Washington club will see how things go in the play-off matches before making any rash decisions about their future. But if the fans don't turn out to support their team's extraordinary success then, it may be the last chance they'll get to see them in action.

THE striking partnership of Alan Green (above) and Paul Cannell has allowed Washington Diplomats to challenge the mighty Cosmos at the head of the National Conference's Eastern Division.

The New York club would regard the Divisional Championship as the least threatened of their titles. But there's every chance of the

Palace) have all been combining holidays with a chance to see some Stateside soccer.

Indoor Soccer

THE NASL clubs finally look like getting a national Indoor League underway to keep their players in action all winter.

Sixteen of the 24 teams are already committed to the indoor game, to be played between November and February. And the other eight have until the end of July to decide if they want to take part.

It will be a six-a-side League with six home matches and six away.

To get more in line with the European schedule, the NASL are also toying with the idea of extending their programme to 40 matches and stretching the season to the end of September.

Shootout Volley

CARLOS Alberto has found an ingenious way of confusing goalkeepers during shootouts, the system for deciding drawn matches in American games.

Most players aren't sure whether to try and blast the ball into the net from the 35-yard line or to try and dribble it past the goalkeeper in the ten seconds that are allowed.

The brilliantly inventive Brazilian scorns both methods. He flicks the ball high into the air, traps it on his knee on the way down, and then volleys over the bemused goalkeeper.

Four off in Brawl

THERE was a massive punch-up when the Cosmos played Vancouver Whitecaps. It started when Whitecaps' Willie Johnston clashed with Iran defender Eskan-

darian. Other players joined in and two more were sent-off: Giorgio Chinaglia (Cosmos) and John Craven of Vancouver. Play was held up for 14 minutes and at one stage the great Pelé left his seat in an attempt to restore order. After the game, which the Cosmos lost 4-2, their technical director Julio Mazzei blamed the poor handling of English ref Keith Styles, while Whitecaps' Tony Waiters said the Cosmos behaved like back-street thugs.

The game, watched by almost 50,000 fans, saw Cosmos' fourth defeat of the season; six players were also booked. Quite a game.

Rogues Move?

MEMPHIS Rogues could be moving to Phoenix next season.

A group of businessmen in Arizona are willing to pay £1.3 million for the ailing club with the worst League record of 1979.

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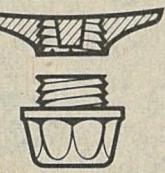
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**RAY
CLEMENCE**
talking soccer

'When I 'beat' Champion golfer Jack Nicklaus'

IT'S the final hole in the British Open Golf Championship at Lytham St. Annes. The massed crowd stands hushed, as I prepare to attempt a 20-foot putt to wrest the title from current Champion Jack Nicklaus, the biggest money-spinning golfer in the World.

The tension is almost unbearable. I wipe my sweaty palms down my trouser-legs and take a firmer grip on my favourite club. I line up the hole with my eye, try a couple of practice putts, and then strike the ball firmly but not too hard.

I watch its progress with bated breath, unblinking. It begins to slow — too quickly it seems — and my shoulders slump with disappointment, as I'm gripped by the certainty that the ball is destined to stop short.

But — no! It teeters on the brink, and then drops out of sight down the hole!

The air resounds with clapping and cheering. Smiling, Jack Nicklaus strides over to shake me by the hand.

I raise my other hand in the air to acknowledge the applause and — crash! — it strikes the lamp above my bed and I wake up!

It's all a dream — and there's no chance that it will be anything else. For although I'm a keen golfer, my ambitions far outstrip my ability.

I'll just have to content myself with being a top man in the field of soccer, and forget about conquering any other realm of sport.

For like many people who excel at one, I'd love to sample the thrills and delights of winning at another and contrasting it with playing foot-

ball for Champions Liverpool and British Champions England.

Golf is the other sport that appeals to me most. Unfortunately I cannot spare the time to get in the practice needed to bring my handicap down to a respectable level, but there's nothing I like more than to slip away with a friend to a quiet course for a round away from the frantic world of football.

Occasionally I'm invited to take part in a pro-am. tournament, and it's a great thrill to be paired with an expert.

It's a pity that British golfers seldom pick up the major titles. I believe our last big winner was Tony Jacklin, who won the American Open in 1970. An incredible feat considering that the Yanks seem to dominate the game.

Over there the competition is

fiercer than in Britain, with a larger pool of talent chasing bigger money prizes, and crowds who, unlike those here, tend to ignore golfing etiquette by being noisy and intruding on the courses.

Naturally, having a keen eye and good co-ordination, I'm attracted to ball games, and can also play badminton and squash to a fair club standard.

But it's tennis that ranks second behind golf with me, although so far I just cannot get a decent service going. More often than not the ball either hits the net or whizzes past my opponent's ear!

During Wimbledon fortnight, if I'm at home, I'm glued to the television and my wife Vee has to place my meals in front of it.

Bjorn Borg, the tall slim Swede, who has just won Wimbledon for

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Reds Triumph

Can you please tell me Liverpool's side when they won the F.A. Cup for the first time in 1965?

**JULIET STERNBERG,
LETCHWORTH**

• This was the side which beat Leeds 2-1 in extra-time that year, Juliet — Tommy Lawrence, Chris Lawler, Gerry Byrne, Geoff Strong, Ron Yeats, Willie Stevenson, Ian Callaghan, Roger Hunt, Ian St. John, Tommy Smith, and Peter Thompson.

Hunt and St. John scored for the winners; Billy Bremner replying for Leeds.

Keetley

I read the other day that a player of the same name as mine — Keetley — scored six goals in a Football League game. Can you tell me any more about it?

**PATRICK KEETLEY,
WORCESTERSHIRE**

• Well, Patrick, I can give you two six-goal Keetleys for the price of one!

Tom Keetley scored six goals for Doncaster v. Ashington on 16th February, 1929; and brother Frank also scored six — in only 21 minutes, too — for Lincoln v. Halifax on 19th January, 1932. Both games were in the old Third Division (North).

All told — for Bradford, Doncaster, and Notts County — Tom Keetley scored a total of 277 League goals between 1919 and 1933. His total of 180 for Doncaster is still a club-record.

Incidentally, four Keetley brothers played for Doncaster — and Joe, Tom, and Harold actually played together in the same forward line in a League game against Wigan Borough on 20th February, 1926.

Hat-trick of Finals?

Has any club ever got to Wembley three years running in either the F.A. Cup or League Cup Finals?

**ANDY HESP,
OUTERHEBRIDES**

• No, not yet, Andy. But Forest have been there for the last couple of years for the League Cup — and, knowing Cloughie's lads, who'd like to bet against their making it a unique hat-trick next Spring?

the record-breaking fourth year in succession, is my favourite. He has such tremendous style, and I cannot detect a single fault in his game. Every shot in the book is in his armoury, and when he's on top form he really is the best in the world.

He also possesses an admirable temperament, is always in command of his feelings and never indulges in petty tantrums; unlike "Superbrat", John McEnroe, the young American genius who seems to have taken over Ilie Nastase's mantle.

I identify with Borg's approach.



'Sue Barker
a dedicated
Liverpool fan'

He's dedicated and thoroughly professional — just as we at Liverpool always try to appear. No one at Anfield is allowed to get too big for his boots and act like a prima donna.

McEnroe, on the other hand, is a bad example to youngsters aspiring to play tennis at the topmost level, but I have a feeling that a year from now he could be a more mature, dignified person, simply because he'll realise he can achieve more on court.

Of the girls, I have a special interest in Sue Barker, who has declared herself to be a keen Liverpool fan. As she comes from the West Country, I cannot understand her allegiance to us Reds. I believe she contributed an article to my testimonial brochure, so perhaps she'll explain why in that.

I've never been very good at running, which perhaps explains why I'm a goalkeeper, and consequently my interest in athletics has always been as a spectator.

Middle-distance running fascinates me. I enjoy studying the tactics, the changing of pace, the switching of the positions. So much of it is in the mind.

I'm often amazed at the speeds they turn in lap after lap.

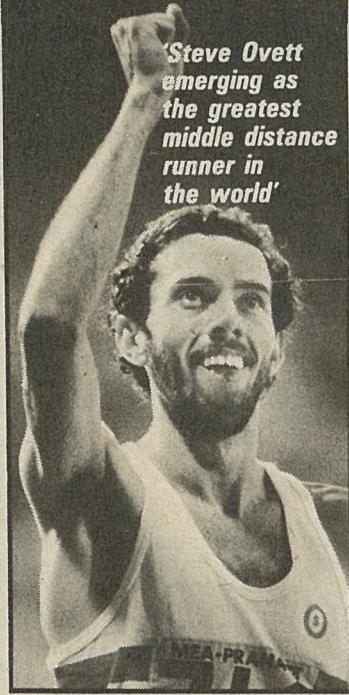
Novices would be finished after just one time around.

Brendan Foster is among my favourites. Not only have I been impressed by his ability, but by his modesty and willingness to praise other runners. I saw him beaten quite recently, in Scotland I think, during a televised event, and he was the first to congratulate the winner and urge him to do a lap of honour on his own.

Steve Ovett is now emerging as the greatest middle-distance runner in the world, and must surely make a big impact in the Olympics in Moscow in 1980.

In 1978 in Prague he was the only athlete to win a gold medal for Britain.

Unfortunately his reticence over giving interviews to the Press tends to be misconstrued as arrogance and he comes in for some criticism. To some extent I sympathise with him for I share his belief that results



'Steve Ovett emerging as the greatest middle distance runner in the world'

should to the talking.

Boxing is a sport I was never any good at, simply because I tended to lead with my chin, but I love watching a bout in which there's good footwork, skilful ducking and weaving and clean punching.

John Conteh, Liverpool-born and a great supporter of my club, was real poetry in motion in his prime, when he won the World Light-Heavyweight crown in 1974.

His is a real rags to riches story, having fought his way from the poor area of the city to a position where he lives like a king.

John is always welcome at Liverpool F.C. and is invariably amongst the first to congratulate us after a success. Likewise, we'll go along to his fights whenever it's possible.

I remember that when Liverpool first did the double of Championship and U.E.F.A. Cup, in 1973, he joined in the celebrations, taking his turn to hold the trophy on the top deck of the bus that toured the city.

Unfortunately, I wasn't present as I was with the England party at the time.

After a battle with the World Boxing Council over his right to govern

his own affairs, he was stripped of his title for failing to defend it when ordered to do so, and is now making a comeback.

Despite problems with an injury-prone right hand, John is steadily making progress, and if sheer tenacity and willpower count he'll make it back to the big-time.

Speed sports, such as motorcycle racing and car racing, form compulsive viewing for me, and at one time I used to visit the Cadwell Park track regularly.

Both Scunthorpe and Liverpool place a ban on players riding motorcycles, so I've never experienced the thrill of belting along on two high-powered wheels.

Being a fervent patriot, I've followed the fortunes of young Barry Sheene, who unfortunately has been forced to ride a Japanese Suzuki simply because there are no British racing bikes made now.

It's amazing how Barry can hurl a bike round a tight bend at full power with only the narrow strips of rubber on his canted tyres between him and disaster.

In fact, while practising for the Daytona 200, in Florida in 1975, the rear wheel of his machine locked and he was flung off, to slide along the track with its rough surface ripping his leathers to shreds.

He received multiple injuries which kept him out of racing for months. As soon as he'd recovered, however he was back in the saddle.

Right now, Barry is contemplating having a go at conquering the world of motor racing, which James Hunt has just left, after winning the Championship two years ago.

James is another man I admire — and particularly for making the wise decision to quit the dangerous sport after realising he was unlikely ever to equal past achievements.

Driving fast on a track is one of my ambitions. But not to emulate James Hunt. I'd want plenty of room — with the track all to myself!

I get all the competition I want playing for Liverpool!

Ray Kennedy

Top for a season

Has a club ever led the English First Division throughout the whole of a season?

NEIL STAPLES,
HUDDERSFIELD

● Yes, Neil, Leeds did just that when they were last League Champs in 1973-74.

They were in top-spot when the first League tables were published after the games of 1st September, and "greedily" hung on to it for the rest of the season — the final table showing them still five points ahead of runners-up Liverpool.

SHORT PASSES

● Bobby and Jack Charlton played together in the full England team on 28 occasions.

(MARK FROST, Tonbridge)

● Derby's scorers in beating Real Madrid 4-1 in a European Cup home first-leg on 22nd October, 1975, were Charlie George three (two pens.) and David Nish.

(PHILIP BAKER, Chesterfield)

● Forty different clubs have won the F.A. Cup; the last "new" name being Ipswich in 1978.

(PAUL HEWITT, Norfolk)

● Crystal Palace's record victory is 9-0 (v. Barrow; Div. Four; 10th October, 1959).

(BARRY LAWSON, Uxbridge)

● Middlesbrough's most-capped player is Wilf Mannion, who played in 26 full internationals for England between the 1946-47 and 1951-52 seasons.

(BRIDGET JONES, Cleveland)

● In 1928-29, Cardiff conceded the least number of goals (59) in the First Division, but were still relegated.

(CHRISTOPHER HULL, Islington)

● Norwich's first League game was a 1-1 draw at Plymouth (Div. 3 South) on 28th August, 1920.

(STEPHEN HILL, Norwich)

● Former F.I.F.A. President Sir Stanley Rous refereed the 1934 F.A. Cup Final at Wembley in which Manchester City beat Portsmouth 2-1.

(JIM HIDDESTON,
Midlothian)

● Manchester United's highest total of points is 64, when they were League Champions in 1956-57.

(LEE MORRIS, Manchester)

● Tony Currie played 313 League games for Sheffield United, scoring 55 goals.

(PAULINE DILLING, Aldershot)

Our Expert would like to point out that although all letters are read, he can only reply to published questions because of shortage of time.



Waddington will get The Railwaymen moving again

Blackpool, for just £2,500. The magical Matthews had the fans queuing at the turnstiles and, as a result, players wanted to join the increasingly skilful side. Reaching the First Division became a formality and European competition followed.

It is, of course, vastly different at Crewe but far from hopeless. Secretary Kenneth Dove expressed the high hopes in the club.

"No one is looking for a 'super' season ... we realise that Tony cannot wave a magic wand and convert everything overnight. But, after all, he is a 'local' man with a genuine feeling for the local team and his management reputation should attract the calibre of player who might not have otherwise been interested in Crewe."

"We were dead last year," Dove went on. "Dead but not buried. Playingwise and financially everything was on the downturn, but then, like most clubs we embarked on a lottery which has improved our financial situation."

That lottery brings in about £80,000 a year and will give Waddington a foundation on which to build. There won't be money to splash about but enough to pay reasonable wages to players with higher League experience.

Waddington regards such lotteries as a "life saver" to most clubs.

"The money they bring in is 'life blood' and I hope that legislation in the future will never tamper with it. Whatever a small club can do is determined by its income and the lottery boost is vital."

"I'm going to try to build up this club from the grass roots ... I want the whole thing to be changed. I want the players to have suitable dressing rooms so that they can say 'it's nice to come here and sit down and relax' and so on ... We aim to change the image completely."

It will be a slow haul for Tony Waddington and Co. Last term their average gate was only 1,800 of which 430 held season tickets. The immediate population of the town is 55,000 but, taking in the total area, the club can draw upon about 120,000 people.

The challenge obviously appeals to Tony Waddington. Playing for him could appeal to some former big-name players. That will get The Railwaymen moving again and, in this unpredictable game, who can say where the terminus will be?

TWO years ago Tony Waddington, then boss of Stoke City, walked out of the club completely dejected. He had handed in his resignation as his team slithered into the Second Division after many seasons of quality football. It looked like the end of the football line for the First Division's longest serving manager.

Now, as Stoke start again in the First Division, the man who served them so admirably for 25 years (six as coach, 19 as manager) is back in the game and as busy as ever changing the image of lowly Crewe Alexandra.

Crewe's history is depressing — they haven't been in the Second Division this century! Their highest League status was tenth in 1893. Last season was another disaster on the field. Ninety goals put into their net left them at the bottom of the Fourth and once again they had to seek re-election.

On that dismal record the football supporters of Crewe — a major railway junction — could be expected on Saturdays to jump on a train to anywhere ... it looks, however as if they will stay around to watch Waddington do his utmost for the town in which he has lived for 30 years.

Waddington still suffers today from the knee problem that ruined his own football career. Hailing from Manchester, he played for Manchester and Lancashire Schoolboy sides and made his debut in Manchester United's first team when he was just 16!

When a specialist said that he would never be able to play top class football again, Waddington went on to finish his playing days with Crewe.

His most famous signing for Stoke, then in the Second Division, was Stanley Matthews, from

At first glance, Rochdale's 2-1 win at Crewe on a bleak Friday night in the middle of May does not appear to be a particularly spectacular result.

But although the 2,036 spectators never realised it at the time, they were witnessing a soccer miracle.

For the two points won by Rochdale that night took them above Darlington and out of the re-election zone for the first time all season.

Following their disastrous League campaign of the previous season when they had finished seven points behind Southport yet still retained their Football League status, another application for re-election would almost certainly have meant the end for Rochdale.

In January they were next to bottom of the Fourth Division, with only 12 points from 22 games, and if ever a club looked doomed then that club was Rochdale.

Manager Mike Ferguson had been sacked at the beginning of December, and Doug Collins'

break into management, and this was the perfect opportunity to show my qualities."

After nine years with Burnley, where he carefully studied the managerial skills of men like Alan Brown, Harry Potts and Jimmy Adamson, Collins left for Plymouth, then under the control of Tony Waiters, in 1976.

From there he renewed his association with Jimmy Adamson at Sunderland before an Atlantic crossing to the Tulsa Roughnecks.

"I have watched carefully how all these different managers have gone about their jobs, and learnt valuable lessons from all of them," he explained.

"At Burnley, for instance, they hardly signed any new players, while at Derby there was always a lot of new signings going on through Tommy Docherty, who was a true wheeler-dealer.

"Having seen the transfer market at both ends of the spectrum has stood me in good stead for my breakthrough into management, and I hope to use that experience



The Rochdale Miracle

(above) arrival as his successor could only be regarded as a short-time appointment in view of the club's ominous position.

Yet under Collins, Rochdale won half of their remaining fixtures, and took 16 points from their last nine home games.

Doug Collins is Rochdale's 12th manager since the War, and although a lengthy stay at Spotland may not be everybody's cup of tea, it is a challenge the former Burnley midfield star relishes.

"There were two reasons which made me accept the job," he explains.

"The first was that I was approached by general-manager Jack Butterfield, who I had known and admired at Burnley.

"He is a very forceful and ambitious character, and I realised that if he believed that the club still had a future, then he must be right.

"Also I was on the coaching staff at Derby at the time, and although I learnt a great deal in my four months there I found it a very frustrating business.

"I am the kind of man who likes to make decisions, but not being in charge made it very difficult to do that."

"I have always been very keen to go one better, proving in soccer miracles."

to my advantage."

Yet although Collins was only too happy to take over soccer's unwanted job as Rochdale manager, he admits to a certain degree of early uncertainty.

"The only way I can describe my first impressions of the place is that it was like a bankrupt business. The whole place was terribly run down, and it was then that I realised fully the immensity of the challenge I had accepted.

"I said then that I would give the club a new coat of paint, and I think that we are well on the way to achieving that.

"Our results at the end of the season were more like that of a team going for promotion than a club in the bottom-four.

"If we can only maintain that form next season, I see no reason why we should not win promotion.

"That is our aim for 1979-80, not only to win promotion, but to win the Fourth Division Championship as well."

Some people might scoff at such an ambition, but few would have bet on Rochdale escaping relegation last season.

Now, they hope to go one better, proving in soccer miracles.

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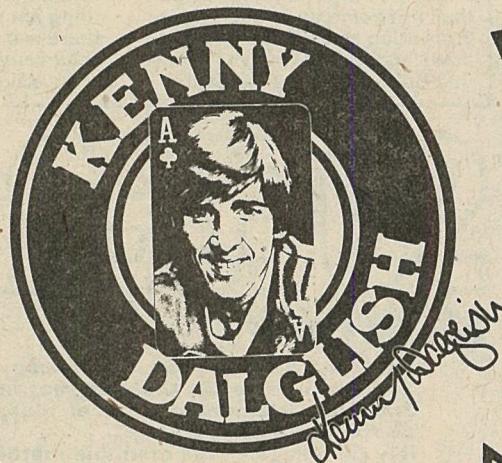
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'TOO MANY MANAGERS UPSET OUR BALANCE'

YOUNG Mark Goodwin is just one of the exciting young players fighting to put Leicester City back in the First Division. Still only 19, Mark considers himself a local, despite moving from Sheffield ten years ago.

"Originally I supported Manchester United and Sheffield Wednesday but by the time I had lived in Leicester a few years, I began to watch them," he says.

"I had England schoolboy trials but they came to nothing and I began thinking of becoming a PE teacher. But then Leicester asked me to sign apprentice forms and I jumped at the chance because I had always wanted to be a professional footballer."

Goodwin made his first team debut against Ipswich in November, 1977 and his second game was in front of an awe inspiring 57,000 crowd at Old Trafford — against his boyhood heroes, Manchester United. But young Mark didn't allow the event to overcome his ability or determination — he scored a goal to prove it.

He prefers to play in midfield, where he has the opportunity to go forward and get involved. But Leicester also use his versatility to play him at full-back, midfield or even up-front.

City haven't exactly hit the headlines recently but Goodwin says there are good reasons for the recent lack of success at Filbert Street.

"We had three managers in

three years — Jimmy Bloomfield, Frank McLintock and our present boss, Jock Wallace. These changes obviously upset the balance of the team. We never seemed to settle down to one manager's style before he moved on.

"Frank McLintock was thrown in at the deep end and really had to struggle. I think he might have made a good manager if he had stayed on."

Goodwin says that present boss Jock Wallace has made a tremendous difference to the way City approach their matches.

"He has put the enthusiasm back into the side and he is very definite in the way he wants us to play," says Goodwin.

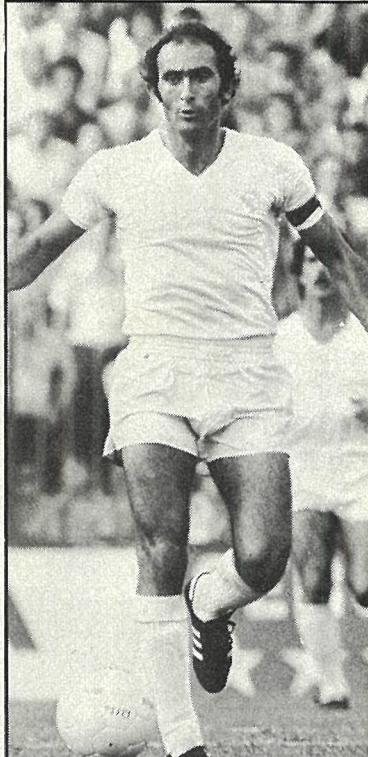
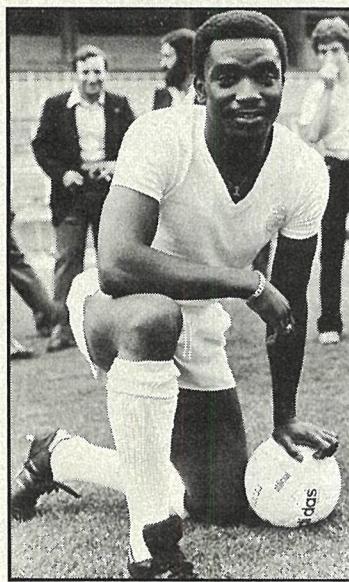
"He wants us to attack but also demands complete commitment from his teams. No one is allowed to give up, even if we are 0-3 down with a minute to go — he expects us to try and make it 1-3."

Last season, Leicester pushed many young players into the senior side, making the average age of the team around 21. That, in a fiercely competitive Second Division which has an abundance of experienced old professionals,

**CHAMPIONS
in EUROPE**

SPAIN

**REAL
MADRID**



VETERANS THE KEY TO SUCCESS

compiled by
GRAHAM TURNER

REAL Madrid comfortably won the Spanish title for a staggering 19th time, but the 1978-79 Championship won't go down in history as a vintage year. Real didn't exactly steamroller their way to the title, but they did pick up points consistently while their chief rivals all had erratic campaigns.

Barcelona missed the boat by winning only two of their 17 away games. Atlético Madrid never found their rhythm during a year of chronic internal feuding and unrest. Valencia found that their World Cup stars, Mario Kempes and Rainer Bonhof, were too saturated with football to provide the instant success that their fans demanded, even though they beat Real Madrid 2-0 in the Cup Final. And all three of Real's traditional rivals changed their managers in mid-season.

Among the outsiders, Athletic Bilbao seemed to be contaminated by the political unrest in Basque country, with the squad dividing into factions.

And their humbler Basque rivals, Real Sociedad, made the most of the other teams' hiccups to clinch a UEFA Cup place with a late run.

It was left to a 'minnow', Sporting Gijón, to provide the excitement and good football in a lack-lustre season. Their 39-year-old coach, Vicente Miera, has made a name for himself by building a compact side that, unlike most Spanish clubs, looks for victory both at home and away — and the high-speed forays of wingers Ferreiro and Morán have entertained the crowds and set up a steady stream of chances for experienced

international central striker Quini.

At one stage it looked as though Gijón could pull off a "miracle" title win, especially if they could beat Real at home. But Real turned in one of their rare ten-out-of-ten performances to notch a 1-0 win, and from that moment they merely had to coast home.

Real's reluctant manager, Luis Molowny (who has since stepped down for Vuyadin Boskov to take over), handled their title campaign with amazing coolness, in spite of a crop of serious injuries that would have driven most managers to despair. He calmly produced make-shift sides using replacements from the nursery side, and the youngsters didn't let him down.

At the beginning of the season, Molowny set a target of 47 points — exactly what they got — and insisted on an attacking style that took the pressure off Real's injury-hit and over-age defence.

In the event, veterans like Pirri, Benito and Wolff played an important role in Real's campaign, with

Leading Scorers

- 29 Krankl (Barcelona)
- 23 Quini (Sporting Gijón)
- 19 Rubén Cano (At. Madrid), Satrustegui (Real Sociedad)
- 18 Alonso (Zaragoza), Santillana (Real Madrid)
- 16 Morete (Las Palmas)
- 14 Brindisi (Las Palmas)
- 13 Dani (Ath. Bilbao)
- 12 Kempes (Valencia)
- ** Of the 306 matches played, 190 were home wins; 75 draws; and 41 away wins
- ** 815 goals were scored at an average of 2.66 per game
- ** A total of 628 yellow cards and 40 red cards were shown during the season
- ** Sevilla defender Blanco was the "naughtiest boy" with eight yellow cards
- ** Of the 121 penalties awarded, 33 were missed. Hans Krankl was the worst offender with 4 failures in 10 attempts.

LEFT . . . Bonhof and Carrete of Valencia with the Spanish Cup.

ABOVE . . . Recent signing from West Brom, Laurie Cunningham.

RIGHT . . . The evergreen Pirri.

34-year-old skipper, Pirri, selflessly sacrificing the stirring runs upfield that in the past have brought him a dozen goals a season.

German international striker Uli Stielike has once again been the dynamo in midfield, and the attacking trio of Jensen, Santillana and Juanito is the most dangerous attack in the League.

In spite of their comfortable League win, Real shouldn't indulge in delusions of grandeur. Nine of their squad are now over 30 and, though they surprised everybody by making no new signings last year, they need reinforcements (like Laurie Cunningham) in several departments if they're to remain at the top and make any sort of impact in next season's European Cup.

The Real players dedicated their title win to their late President, Santiago Bernabeu, who died shortly before the start of the season. The club asked us to use a photograph showing their president with the team, and overleaf we gladly oblige as a tribute to one of the greatest men in the history of European football.

Final League Table

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	Opponents	Venue	Result	Scorers
Real Madrid	34	16	15	3	61	36	47	Valencia	H	2-1	Pirri (pen), Stielike
Sporting Gijón	34	17	9	8	50	35	43	Salamanca	A	1-1	Wolff
Atlético Madrid	34	14	13	7	55	37	41	Hércules	A	2-1	Aguilar, Stielike
Real Sociedad	34	18	5	11	53	36	41	Barcelona	H	3-1	Santillana, Jensen, Neeskens (og)
Barcelona	34	16	6	12	69	37	38	Las Palmas	A	2-2	San José, Santillana
Las Palmas	34	14	9	11	49	43	37	Athletic Bilbao	H	2-1	Santillana, Aguilar (pen)
Valencia	34	14	7	13	44	39	35	Burgos	A	2-2	Juanito, Aguilar
Español	34	15	5	14	37	46	35	Huelva	H	4-0	Santillana (2), Pirri (2)
Zaragoza	34	13	8	13	36	40	34	Celta	A	2-2	Guerini, R. Martínez
Real Sociedad	34	18	5	11	53	36	41	Sporting Gijón	H	3-2	Jensen, Santillana, Guerini
Rayo Vallecano	34	12	9	13	47	48	33	Atlético Madrid	A	2-2	Juanito, Santillana
Sevilla	34	12	9	13	47	48	33	Español	H	0-0	Santillana (2)
Santander	34	13	6	15	32	38	32	Zaragoza	A	1-1	Santillana
Valencia	34	10	12	12	38	47	32	Real Sociedad	A	0-0	Santillana (1)
Español	34	12	6	16	56	59	30	Rayo Vallecano	H	4-1	García Hernández, Del Bosque (2), Uceda (og), Juanito
Athletic Bilbao	34	12	10	12	56	46	34	Sevilla	A	1-2	Pirri (pen)
Salamanca	34	13	8	13	36	40	34	Santander	H	5-1	García Hernández, Jensen (2), R. Martínez (2)
Sevilla	34	9	10	15	35	55	28	Burgos	H	4-1	García Hernández, Aguilar, Pirri (pen), Sabido
Hércules	34	13	6	15	32	38	32	Celta	H	2-0	Juanito, Aguilar
Burgos	34	10	12	12	38	47	32	Rayo Vallecano	A	1-0	Santillana
Real Zaragoza	34	12	6	16	56	59	30	Atlético Madrid	H	1-1	Aguilar
Rayo Vallecano	34	9	11	14	31	54	29	España	A	1-1	Santillana
Celta	34	9	10	15	35	55	28	Zaragoza	H	2-1	R. Martínez, Juanito
Racing Santander	34	9	4	21	37	63	22	Real Sociedad	A	0-0	García Hernández, Jensen (2), R. Martínez (2)
Huelva	34	8	5	21	39	66	21	Santander	H	1-2	García Hernández, Jensen (2), R. Martínez (2)

REAL MADRID



BACK ROW (left to right): Garcia Remon, Jensen, Miguel Angel, Stielike Amador (now Hercules).
THIRD ROW: Antonio Ruiz (assistant coach), Carmacho, Santillana, Luis Molowny (manager), Aguirre, Guerini (now Talleres, Argentina), Ramirez (assistant trainer).

SECOND ROW: Del Bosque, Sol, Escribano, Piri, the late Santiago Bernabeu, Benito, Isidro, Sabido, Roberto Martinez.
FRONT ROW: Luis (masseur), Macanas (now Hercules), Vitoria, Juanito, Radisic (trainer), Wolff (now returning to Argentina), Sam Jose, Felipe (training staff).



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Will European Champions Forest win anything next season?



Asa Hartford was signed from Manchester City for £500,000.

"What we have accomplished in the past three years is absolutely incredible. People would expect this from Manchester United, Liverpool or Arsenal — but not us."

THIS was Brian Clough talking a few moments after lifting the European Cup in Munich's luxurious Olympic Stadium.

It sounded almost apologetic. But it was simply an attempt by England's most talked about manager to put things into their true perspective.

Life at the City Ground has never been uneventful since Forest arrived there some 30 years after their formation in 1865.

It's a matter of fact, however, that those outside the city are more likely to remember the day the stand burned down when Leeds were the visitors in August,

1968 or the comings and goings of a succession of managers than achievements on the field.

True, they did win the F.A. Cup in 1898 and 1959 and in 1966-67, under Johnny Carey, they were runners-up to Manchester United in the First Division.

Forest fans thrived on the memories of those seasons for almost a decade but in comparison to the past three years, those achievements have virtually faded into insignificance.

Throughout his time with Hartlepool, Derby County, Brighton and Leeds United, there was never a dull moment for Clough.

But even he couldn't have imagined what was to be accomplished at the City Ground in such a short space of time.

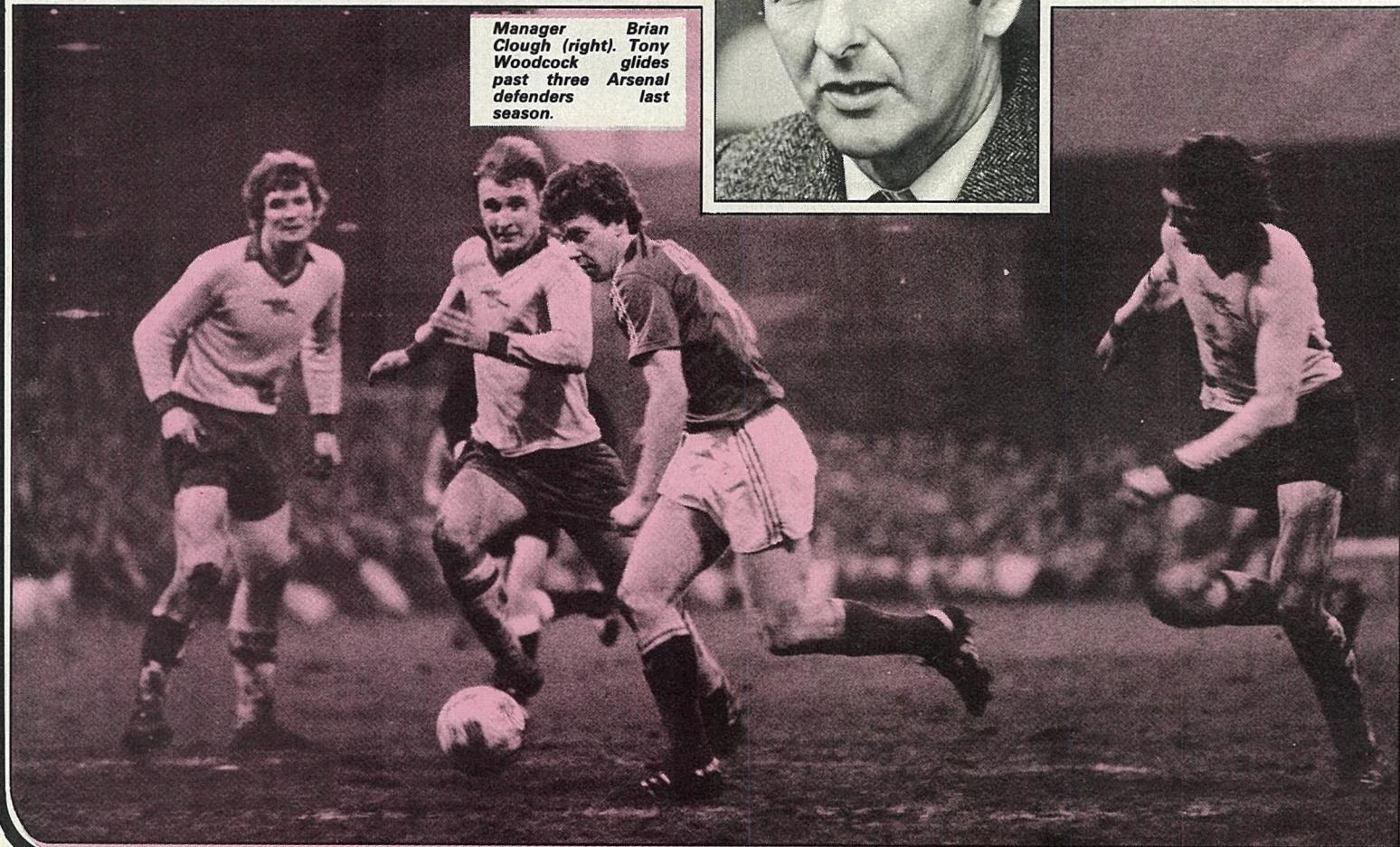
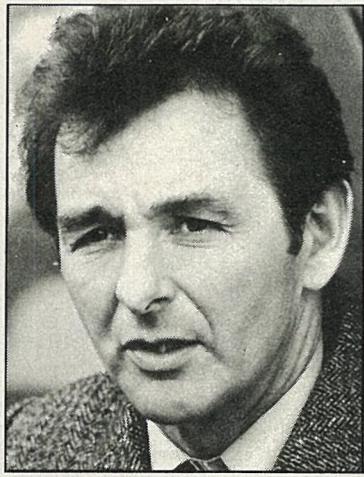
A year of "weeding out", promotion from the Second Division . . . and then the trophies began to roll in.

First came the League Cup for the first time in the club's history when a team packed with reserves got the better of mighty Liverpool in a replayed Final.

By then, Forest were already out in front in the First Division and eventually finished seven points clear of their closest challengers.

But that was only the start. The League Cup stayed at "home" last season — the first club to record the feat — and although they could only finish mere runners-up to

Manager Brian Clough (right). Tony Woodcock glides past three Arsenal defenders last season.



Forest players celebrate their European Cup triumph.



Liverpool in the League, that victory in Munich provided the ultimate triumph for Clough and his trusty assistant Peter Taylor.

As the manager said, it was an absolutely incredible achievement for a club which, four years previously, had been Second Division strugglers with an average crowd of less than 12,000.

It's understandable that he should question whether Forest are ready to be bracketed alongside Manchester United, Liverpool and Arsenal in terms of club status.

Obviously, results govern a club's station in life but after two years of fairy-tale success, the question is: Where do Forest go from here? Will they capture another major honour — or two in 1979-80?

To win the European Cup is the ultimate but progressive-thinking Clough and Taylor won't settle simply for that.

They will want to win the trophy again and again. And clearly, Clough's after-match comment in Munich was no glib throw-away line.

He recognises that to get to the top is much easier than staying there. Only part of the job is complete and there is much more to be done at the City Ground before Forest are truly accepted as one of England's dominant powers.

Significantly, within hours of the single-goal victory over Malmo in the European Cup Final, Taylor was talking about the need for new players.

And the way in which Asa Hartford's £500,000 move from Manchester City was conducted was equally significant.

The Forest management had been eyeing Hartford for some time and when City finally decided to sell, Clough was typically decisive.

He drove straight to Manchester and although Everton officials were waiting to speak with the 28-year-old Scottish international, they didn't even get the chance.

Explained Clough: "Asa said he wanted to talk with Everton and I told him it was now or never as far as Nottingham Forest were concerned."

"We have reached the stage

where anyone who doesn't want to come to this club — or stay here — can walk straight out of the door."

Hartford was a Forest player within minutes, the opportunity of joining the European Champions being too good to turn down.

He recognised that they represented the chance of success and the fact that one of Britain's outstanding midfield players found Forest irresistible is clear indication that they are becoming an established power.

Added Clough: "We needed someone in midfield and Asa is the type of competitive player we like.

"We strengthened up-front by signing Trevor Francis who, incidentally, has turned out to be a cheap buy in the light of recent signings.

"We already have the best goalkeeper in the world, and a back-four whose record is magnificent, and now Hartford has signed, we've got ourselves a useful team."

The hint of modesty does not disguise a feeling of confidence that Forest can carry on progressing.

In realistic terms, progress next season can only mean to match last term's remarkable achievements and Clough's "useful" team, with the benefit of a year's European experience, are capable of doing so.

But while that takes priority over all else, there are two other facets of Forest life which rank highly when it comes to measuring progress.

Work should be completed on the new £2 million stand by the end of the year — and people are already queuing up to fill it.

The Nottingham public, so often criticised by Clough in the past for their lack of interest, are responding at last and they prompted the manager to say:

"The faith these people have shown in us in the past two or three months deserves to be rewarded. They just keep on buying season-tickets and it's only right that we should give them the best we can in return."

Will Forest win anything next season? Only a brave man would think otherwise.

GOAL-LINES

Send your letters to STEVE CARTER, GOAL-LINES, SHOOT!, IPC Magazines Ltd., King's Reach Tower, Stamford St., London SE1 9LS. £3 for the Star letter — £1.50 for every other letter published. When writing to us please mention the two features you liked best in the latest issue of SHOOT!

This week's Star Letter comes from Joe Malone of Belfast, who wins our Special Prize of £3. He writes:

KEVIN FOR P.F.A. CHAIRMAN

THE sincerity with which Kevin Keegan expresses his views is quite refreshing. He provides a marvellous insight to the game and is a fine example of a true professional.

On the field he is world-class and he is also emerging as a television personality — Brian Moore and Jimmy Hill must be looking over their shoulders!

Even Kevin's predictions are spot-on — few people believed Forest could win in Cologne, but Kevin was confident.

Kevin is interesting without being controversial and I admire his honesty.

When he retires, I believe he will become chairman of the Professional Footballers' Association. In the meantime, keep talking Kev — and don't forget your English in Germany.

Soccer Computer

SO much for the computer-age. Wolves asked not to play at home on the first day of the season because of ground alterations. What happens? The League computer not only gives them a home match, but against Champions Liverpool.

Come back humans!

H. EVANS,
ESSINGTON.

● It's a pity the League Champions, especially, can't kick-off the season. Surely it could have been avoided?

Experts Wrong

THE £500,000 transfer of Asa Hartford to Nottingham Forest almost ten years after his hole-in-the-heart sensation underlines how often medical opinion has been proved incorrect.

Derek Parkin (Wolves), Frank Worthington (Bolton), Eddie Gray (Leeds) and John Toshack (Swansea) were all turned down by the "experts" for transfers.

I wonder how many other players now out of the game through a doctor's verdict might still have been playing.

GEOFFREY ALLAN,
WOLVERHAMPTON.

● The problem is that of insurance — unless medical clearance is given, a player can't be insured. And when you pay big money for a player, he must be insured.

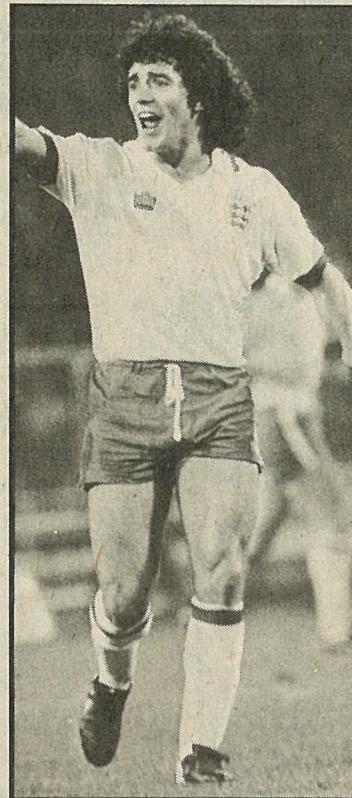
Temporary Sub

IN cricket, if someone is injured, they simply replace the player with the substitute until he is ready to return. In soccer, a team has to play with ten men or use their substitute for the remainder of the game.

I would like to see temporary subs introduced as in cricket.

DEBRA BUNT,
CLAYHALL.

● Managers and physios can assess a player's injury quickly. In cricket, the sub can field for hours while the injured player has treatment and the loss is hardly noticed. I don't think you can compare the two sports in this respect.



I just hope Kevin (above) has the chance to display his skills in the 1982 World Cup Finals, because that is the platform for every great player. I'm sure Kev will inspire England to Spain — with 24 Finalists England surely can't fail.

Pen-Pal

I'M a 17-year-old girl from Finland and I'd like to correspond with fans of Tottenham and Anderlecht.

PIA LAPPI,
PUOLAPOLKU 12,
96500 ROVANIEMI 50,
FINLAND.

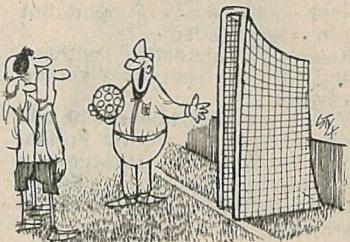
FOOTBALL FUNNIES



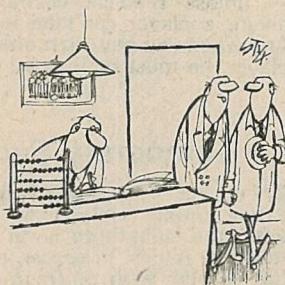
This week England's Kenny Sansom (left), Emlyn Hughes and Laurie Cunningham select the jokes specially drawn by our cartoonist Styx.



"I'm not nagging because you missed training — it's just that you might have turned up Saturday for the match"



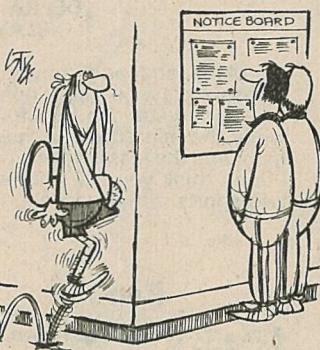
"I want you to practise at slotting the ball in"



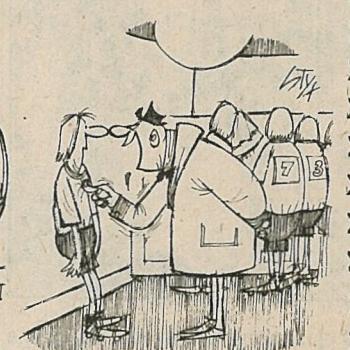
"Gives you some idea of the club's financial position — that's our accountant"



"Shavings, Joe — from the ref's pencil, last Saturday"



"Hello — we've got a new doctor — wonder if he's any good"



"The only thing that stands between you being a world class striker is — the goalkeeper"

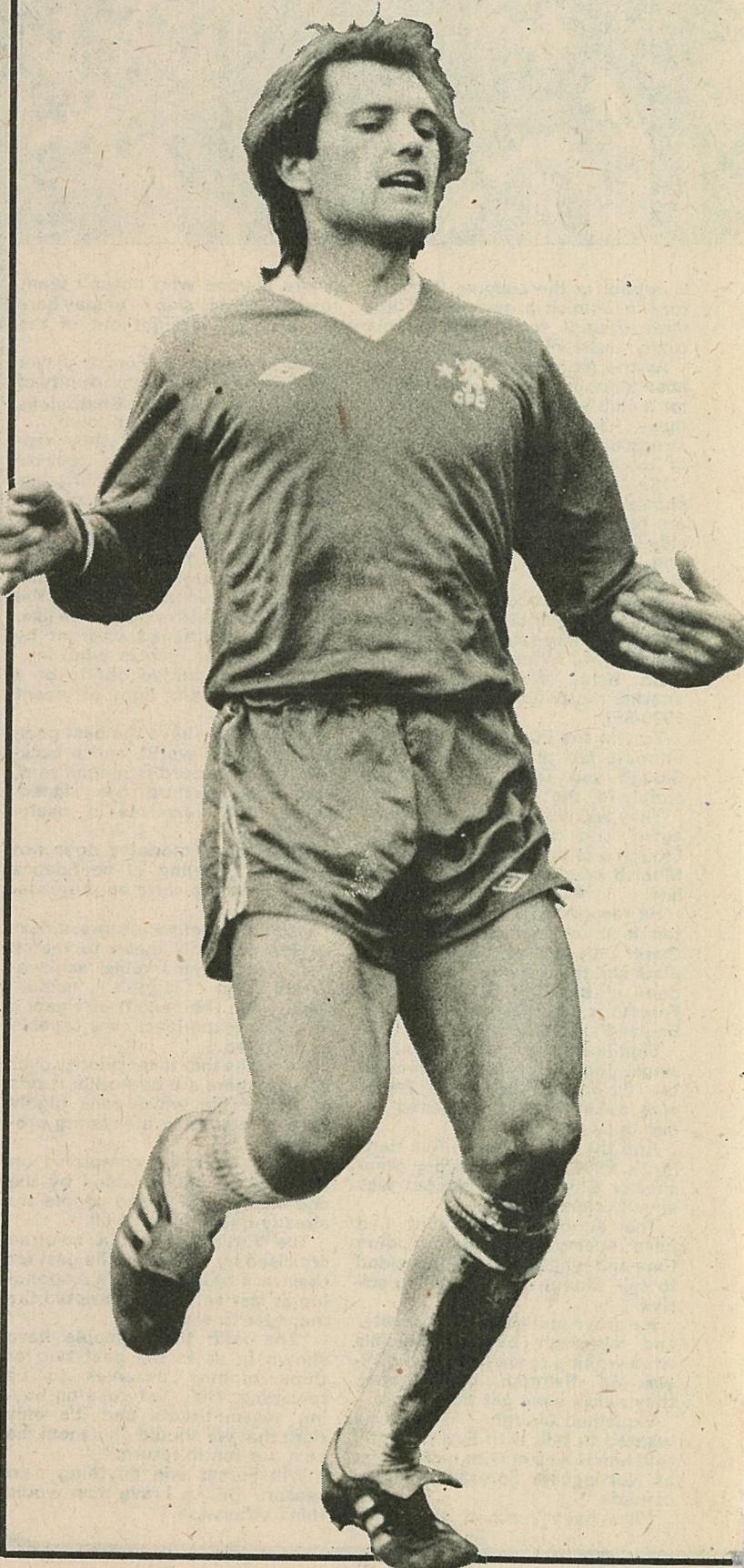
WHEN 1978/79 ended, I was confident I'd start the new season with a different club, but as I write I've faced up to the reality of kicking-off the new campaign with Chelsea. Nothing has happened on the transfer front — all I can do is to wait . . . and hope.

It's not that I want to leave Chelsea, just that I don't want to play in the Second Division. Had we not been relegated, I'd have been quite happy to play out the year

remaining on my contract.

Okay, so I was part of the team that went down and I accept my share of the blame. Yet I've given Chelsea five good years and the time is right for us to part company — sad day though it will be when it eventually happens.

It's been a difficult summer for me and the transfer has been on my mind all the time. Jackie and I didn't go abroad for a holiday, because I wanted to be around just in



case anything happened . . .

We went to Bournemouth for a short break, yet came home after two days. Scores of well-meaning fans followed us everywhere and I felt like the Pied Piper when I walked down the street. I never mind signing autographs and having a quick chat after training or at the right moment. I must say I didn't feel particularly refreshed after just a three-week break from soccer.

I reported back with Chelsea on July 10th and . . . well . . . let me put it like this: I wasn't exactly desperate to start all over again! I could have done with another fortnight or so. Mind you, once I got

RAY WILKINS
Writes for you

"The £1 million transfer of Trevor Francis started the inflated prices."



'Another season with Chelsea?'

into the swing of things it was okay.

I didn't feel awkward meeting the Chelsea lads again, even though I didn't think I would under such circumstances. We all get on well and they're a good bunch of boys.

I signed a two-year contract last summer because I was happy with the club and honestly thought we could hold our own in the First Division. I can't say I regret signing because it was the right decision at the time; it's easy to be wise in hindsight.

Even though I'm an established England player now, I still consider myself as a Second Division player first and an international second. In such instances, your club must take precedence.

Danny Blanchflower has been very good, keeping me informed of the situation and any relevant details.

I've thought a million things in the past two months or so. I've thought so much I've probably clouded the reality of it all. This happens when you have something on your mind all the time. The frustrating part is that there is nothing at all I can do but wait.

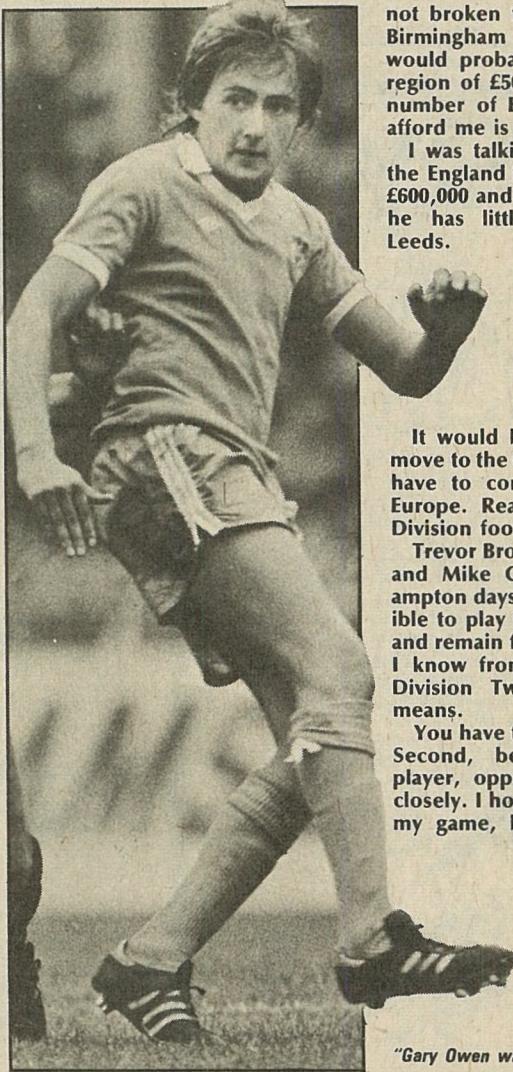
I suppose £750,000 is a realistic fee and I don't blame Chelsea for wanting as much as they can get for me. On the other hand, West Brom snapped up young Gary Owen from Manchester City for £450,000, a positive snip at the price. There is no way I'm £300,000 better than the England Under-21 midfield player.

Having said that, perhaps lesser players have moved for more money, which just shows how crazy the transfer market is.

Trevor Francis's £1 million fee started it all, of course. Had Forest

not broken the records by paying Birmingham City that sum, my fee would probably have been in the region of £500,000. At £750,000 the number of English clubs who can afford me is limited.

I was talking to Tony Currie on the England tour and he told me at £600,000 and almost 30 years of age he has little chance of leaving Leeds.



It would be a shame if I had to move to the Continent, although I'd have to consider any offer from Europe. Really, all I want is First Division football.

Trevor Brooking, with West Ham, and Mike Channon in his Southampton days, have shown it is possible to play in the Second Division and remain first choice for England. I know from personal experience Division Two isn't easy by any means.

You have to be a yard faster in the Second, because as a "name" player, opponents mark you very closely. I hope I shan't have to alter my game, but I know I must be

razor-sharp to maintain a high standard next season.

Motivation won't be easy; it never is after relegation. You get used to playing in front of big crowds and you have to be very disciplined to play at . . . let's say Second Division grounds with low attendances.

I'm determined not to let things get on top of me. I want to do well and I've accepted the fact I could have to play another season in Division Two with Chelsea. They want to sell me . . . I want to join a First Division club . . . but it isn't always as easy as that.

The challenge is certainly there and hopefully Chelsea will be amongst the pacesetters in Division Two. We should have Gary Locke, Micky Droy and Davie Hay available from the beginning and they will steady our defence. All three players suffered nasty injuries or illnesses last season.

I'm trying to put the transfer out of my mind, although it isn't easy. Little things make it hard to forget. We want some alterations done to our home in Sutton . . . yet is it worth starting when we could be on the move at any time?

At the moment, I just want to be 100 per cent fit by August 18th and keep my fingers crossed. More than that I can't do.

It's unfair for me to talk about individual clubs — everyone knows that one, in particular, has been closely linked with me.

I'll promise you something: as soon as anything happens, I'll tell SHOOT readers all about it as soon as possible.

In the meantime, it's back to pre-season training. Join me again in a fortnight when I'll be giving my predictions for 1979/80.

Ray Wilkins

"Gary Owen was a snip at £450,000."

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WALES HOME	S/BOYS	BOYS	YOUTHS	S/MENS	LARGE
SINGAPORE AWAY	S/BOYS	BOYS	YOUTHS	S/MENS	LARGE
SAUDI ARABIA	S/BOYS	BOYS	YOUTHS	S/MENS	LARGE
INDONESIA AWAY	S/BOYS	BOYS	YOUTHS	S/MENS	LARGE
ENGLAND HOME	S/BOYS	BOYS	YOUTHS	S/MENS	
LEEDS HOME	S/BOYS	BOYS	YOUTHS	S/MENS	
C PALACE AWAY	S/BOYS	BOYS	YOUTHS	S/MENS	
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LEICESTER HOME	S/BOYS	BOYS	YOUTHS	S/MENS	
LEICESTER AWAY	S/BOYS	BOYS	YOUTHS	S/MENS	
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NORTH-EAST CROSSTALK

'Newcastle must tighten up away'
— JOHN CONNOLY

'Pop Robson will boost Sunderland's chances'
— GARY ROWELL



Newcastle and Sunderland set for big promotion push

CONNOLY: Last term was disappointing for Newcastle after we had promised to do better. But I reckon it must have been worse for Sunderland, when they came so close to achieving promotion, only to find they had failed on the very last day of the season.

ROWELL: Yes, it was a blow to us, John, and I was sickened by the fact that I had to miss the last ten matches through injury. Sitting in the stand at a time like that is not an experience I would recommend, especially for the games we lost at home against Blackburn and Cardiff.

CONNOLY: It was our poor away record that let us down, Gary. I don't know whether or not we will

adopt different tactics away in the 1979-80 term, maybe tighten up a little more when we are travelling, and attack less, but that is something our manager Bill McGarry will decide.

ROWELL: With Sunderland, it was our defeats at Roker Park that cost us promotion. Of all the teams in contention for a top place, we slipped up the most on our own ground, where we lost five times. Yet away, we collected 26 points, enough to take us up if the home results had been right, which doesn't help to ease our disappointment.

CONNOLY: Agreed. And looking ahead to the new season, I suppose the crucial thing for Sunder-

land will be to shake off the frustrations of 1978-79.

ROWELL: Yes, I see what you mean. But the mood with our players is they will be more determined than ever to succeed following their narrow failure. So last term's experience should act as a spur, just as Newcastle must have learned from their season in the Second Division — the first eight months are those a team uses to settle in, and learn from. This happened to us in our first term after being relegated.

CONNOLY: Well, we certainly felt that we had absorbed some useful lessons, and now we know what to expect this time. We are confident because we believe we are as good as anybody in the Second Division, and in fact the only promotion side that impressed me last season were Crystal Palace — next to them I would say West Ham, before they were hit by injuries.

ROWELL: I thought the Second Division lacked an outstanding team last term, and we'll be out to prove in the future that we deserve a place among the leaders. Incidentally, there is one consolation about neither of us gaining promotion — there will be the Newcastle-Sunderland derbies to look forward to in 1979-80.

CONNOLY: They are always something to anticipate, though after playing a draw 1-1 at Roker last season, we weren't happy at losing 4-1 to you at St James' Park. In that match, I thought we had a chance when we pulled the score back to 2-1, and the final result was perhaps hard on us. But I had to admire the way you put away your chances, Gary.

ROWELL: Thank you. It's always encouraging to win 4-1 away from home, and to do it against our great rivals gave us an extra boost. And mention of them reminds me the Newcastle fans got a lift from the performances in the attack of Alan Shoulder, who really just came into the big-time pro-

fessional game last season.

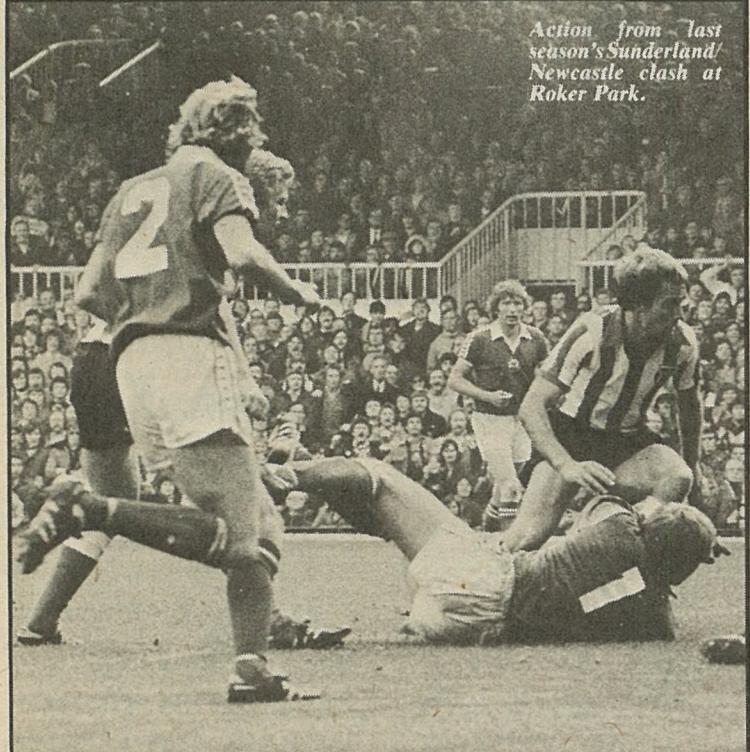
CONNOLY: True. Alan was bought from the tiny North-East club Blyth Spartans for only £10,000 and surprised everybody with his energy and commitment in all his matches. Next term he could find the going harder, as defenders will be more accustomed to his style, but I believe Alan has the ability and aptitude to overcome any obstacle.

ROWELL: Experience is vitally important for a player as well as a team. When the new season starts, this Sunderland side will have been together for two and a half years, which will count tremendously in the promotion race. So far, we've proved that by challenging so strongly for a place in the top three there isn't a lot wrong with the team. Also we've recently resigned our former striker Bryan Robson from West Ham. He was always a big favourite with Roker Park fans. Pop's guaranteed for around 25 goals a season which should boost our promotion chances.

CONNOLY: I agree Pop will be a valuable asset to Sunderland, Gary, so should ex-Newcastle defender Frank Clark, who recently left Forest to join your boss Ken Knighton as assistant-manager. Two very good men there. Anyhow, last season was a transitional period for Newcastle, when a new side was being put together, and in April the signs were there that the necessary blend was being achieved. Earlier there were injuries, with new faces coming into a team in the process of being built up, which didn't make it any easier for us.

ROWELL: I don't think I'm over-optimistic when I predict that both Newcastle and Sunderland will make a worthwhile bid to put the North-East into the promotion stakes.

CONNOLY: The Roker fans, and the supporters at St James' Park deserve nothing less.



Action from last season's Sunderland/Newcastle clash at Roker Park.

FINAL PART

Our week-by-week account of the

Week ending MAY 26

ARSENAL CHASE NEESKENS

HERE'S still a small hangover of League games to be played-off — even though it's time for international fray to take over.

Cup-winners Arsenal, threatened with losing some of their top names to Europe, make moves in the opposite direction to try and get one from there.

The target's a big one, too — brilliant Dutch star Johan Neeskens, who's lately done so much for Barcelona.

Family-man Ron Greenwood believes in keeping all his football family happy, and not just sitting it out on the sidelines.

So, from Saturday's successful side in Belfast, there are six changes for the Wembley game with Wales.

Keegan, now free from club commitments, comes back as a "must" — but there are some interesting experimental changes, including first full caps for Kenny Sansom, Palace's brilliant young defender, and the explosive talents of West Bromwich striker Laurie Cunningham.

The cool, calm approach of 20-year-old Sansom, completely uninhibited by the occasion, catches a lot of attention in an otherwise disappointing 0-0 draw.

But Wales have no complaints. Level on points with England, a good win over Northern Ireland will put all the

pressure on England against Scotland at Wembley.

And, with goal-difference now counting, it could see "little" Wales outright British Champs for the first time since 1937.

One famous Francis has latterly changed clubs, and now another — former England skipper Gerry — makes the short journey across London to join his former Q.P.R. team-mate, Terry Venables, at ambitious Palace.

Another interesting end-of-season deal takes the talented young Swansea striker Alan Curtis to Leeds, who are now clearly rebuilding to try and recapture their old glory of the Revie days.

Greenwood restores the "old hands" for the Big One with the Scots — but, the night before, England's task is made that much easier by battling Wales completely blowing their fine chance with a drab Belfast draw which hands the disappointing Irishmen their only point of the competition.

Now any Wembley win — not just a goal-happy one — is all England need to retain the British Championship.

And, despite the Scots taking an early lead, this they achieve comfortably enough by 3-1. Keegan really buzzes — and that makes all the difference between the two teams.

Holland's Johan Neeskens ... a possible move to England?



Celtic manager Billy McNeill discusses team tactics with his players.



Week ending JUNE 2

FOREST CONQUER EUROPE

THERE'S only one thing that matters to English fans this week. Can Forest keep for the country the European Cup so gloriously held by Liverpool — themselves K.O.'d by Forest last September — for the past two years? Englishman Bob Houghton's Malmo may not, on paper, look as tough a nut to crack as most of those already put out by the Clough-men. But thorough Forest can be relied upon not to be complacent on that score.

Nonetheless, the bookies offer six-to-one against Malmo — but only a beggarly nine-to-four ON Forest!

And, as usual, the bookies don't get things far out. Forest dominate a lacklustre match in Munich's Olympic Stadium — the most disappointing Final yet, some old-hand observers claim — but find it difficult to break down the negative offside-trap tactics of their Swedish opponents. Fittingly, perhaps, it's Trevor Francis who breaks the deadlock a minute before half-time with what turns out to be the only goal of the game.

And — even if he is a "Man-in-a-Million" — this is Francis's first-ever Euro-

pean tie!

Forest are so much superior that they should have won far more comfortably and convincingly than 1-0.

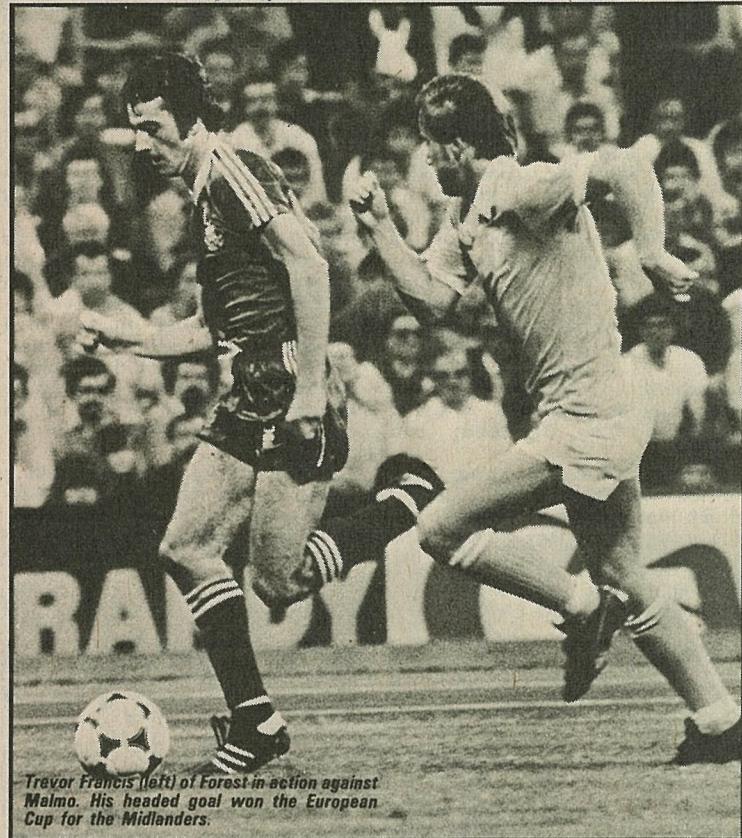
But any short-sighted critics should remember this. It took mighty Liverpool 13 years to climb to this summit in Europe — yet this incredible "novice" Forest side has done it all at the first time of asking.

Domestically, soccer has actually stopped at last — with even the ghastly winter's backlog of postponed games finally wiped off the slate.

So the back-page headlines mainly concentrate on rumours of possible moves as teams seek to strengthen their line-up for next season — unbelievably, now, not much more than a couple of months distant.

It looks odds-on that Ray Wilkins won't still be at Chelsea — but where, instead, has all the papers guessing and speculating.

And it seems that Laurie Cunningham, one of England's newest full internationals, wouldn't be averse to a move across the Channel if the terms are right.



Trevor Francis (left) of Forest in action against Malmo. His headed goal won the European Cup for the Midlanders.

Week ending MAY 26

CELTIC BACK IN EUROPE

In a superb, heart-stopping display at Parkhead on the Monday night the 1979 Scottish Champions are crowned in front of a 52,000 crowd.

The statistics show that Celtic triumphed over their rivals Rangers 4-2 and clinched the title, but they don't tell of the passion and the courage of both sets of players.

In a game laced with skill, Celtic play fast powerful football. Rangers adopt their European style, hoping for the draw that is all they need. Celtic are stunned when MacDonald puts Rangers in front in nine minutes. Then just after the restart drama ... Doyle is sent-off for aiming a kick at the talented Ibrox

midfield player, MacDonald.

Ten-man Celtic somehow find extra energy, that bit more yard of pace. Aitken snatches an equaliser in 66 minutes and eight minutes later McCluskey makes it 2-1 for Celts.

Two minutes later Russell evens the score. Then disaster for Rangers. Jackson tries to clear a McCluskey effort and turns the ball into his own net.

Six minutes later in almost the last move of the match the nail is driven into the coffin of Rangers' title hopes. A McLeod 20-yard drive bursts into the back of the net.

Celtic are back in Europe. A delighted Billy McNeill says: "I can't speak too

1978-79 season in England and Scotland

Week ending JUNE 9

DOC'S BROOM SWEEPS AGAIN

THE Doc's at it again — or so it seems, anyway. When Tommy Docherty takes over at a club, it usually means more comings and goings than at Heathrow.

And now he's planning relegated Q.P.R.'s revival — out in Nigeria. But significantly, for that tour, Rangers' five most experienced players — Hollins, Bowles, Gillard, Shanks and Clement — are all left behind.

With Gerry Francis just transferred by Docherty, and others rumoured likely to be transfer-listed, one wonders who'll be left of last season's team by the start of the next.

Forest may be European Champions — but, as they say, the successful man is never satisfied. That's maybe why Brian Clough is said to be on the lookout to strengthen even further his talented squad — and Manchester City's Asa Hartford is reckoned to be an early target.

Midweek sees England in Sofia for a very important date with a European Championship tie.

A draw would see England nicely on the way towards the final stages in Italy next year; a win would make them very

difficult to topple in their group.

And — following on the Under-21's 3-1 win over the same nation the evening before — a resounding win it is by 3-0.

Keegan (popping up everywhere), Watson and Barnes get the goals — but mainly it's a superb team-spirit effort which shows that England are on the way, at least, back again.

And England's immediate Euro future is helped considerably by neighbours Northern Ireland — hitherto on top of the group table — surprisingly going down 4-0 in Denmark.

There are still more rumours than hard transfer deals around — and now it's said that Liam Brady could be the subject of a £1-million bid by Bayern Munich.

On the other hand, it looks as if The Gunners' interest in Dutch World Cup star Johan Neeskens is waning following various snags.

A good omen for England's coming friendly in Sweden is the Under-21's workmanlike 2-1 win against the same country, and again young Kenny Sansom — surely a name for the future — is rated outstanding.



Q.P.R. boss Tommy Docherty sold Gerry Francis to Crystal Palace.

highly of all my players' performances. This is a great boost to their confidence for next season."

For Celtic fans Parkhead is paradise.***

George Brown ends a 50 year link with Rangers as a player and a director and retires from the board. John Paton, a Glasgow businessman, takes his place in the boardroom team.

After five-and-a-half hours of Hampden action, Rangers lift the Scottish Cup. The second replay goes into extra-time. And Rangers, runners-up in the League taste success with a 3-2 win.

This is the "Final" that the fans will want to remember. The other two were just dress rehearsals. The first 90 minutes ended 2-2. Higgins opens the scoring for Hibs, Johnstone equalises just before the interval then puts Rangers ahead in 61 minutes.

McLeod then ties up the scoreline, from the spot, in 77 minutes. And so to extra-time. More drama ... McArthur pushes away Miller's penalty for Rangers in 103 minutes.

In the 319th minute of Cup Final football heartbreak for Hibs and Arthur Duncan, trying to clear a vicious cross, he heads the ball into his own net. The Cup stays at Ibrox.

In his first season as manager John Greig has picked up the League Cup and the Scottish Cup. But Celtic's new manager, his old rival, has the Championship flag at Parkhead.

A long hard season draws to an end but for all managers the new season is just beginning.

Note *** "Paradise" is Celtic fans' nickname for Parkhead.

Week ending JUNE 16

SHILTON UNDER AUSTRIAN FIRE

NEARLY mid-June — and there are still two full internationals to go. To keep all his lads content, Ron Greenwood again rings in sweeping changes for the friendly in Stockholm.

It's a game to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Swedish F.A. — and England prove the too-perfect guests of honour!

England clearly do enough to win, but the new-look side just can't put it all together — and the outcome is a disappointing 0-0 draw.

Non-stop Keegan — flying over immediately after playing a hectic match in Hamburg the previous day — highlights the few really dangerous England attacks.

And, with the front-runners faltering at the crucial moment, it's left to Emlyn Hughes — with a breathtaking run from out of his own penalty-area, and viciously thumping the crossbar from 20 yards out — to get England nearest to a goal.

Then it's on to Vienna — with much of the earlier line-up restored. Greenwood tries the novelty of playing a different keeper in each half — and Shilton chooses wrongly to take first outing when he wins the pre-match toss from Clemence.

For he catches the brunt of the Austrian aggression, and is on the receiving-end of three goals to Clemence's second-half one. England themselves get three in a thrill-packed game which everyone enjoys — but, even though there's nothing more than prestige at stake, it's a long time since a

many as four goals were conceded.

On the plus side, though, there's no doubt about England's spirit. Coming back from 1-3 down to level the score away from home — and against as talented a team as Austria — augurs well for any future occasions when the chips may be down.

The night before the "B" side are 1-0 up on their Austrian counterparts — when, after lightning-struck floodlights have been repaired, the violent storm gets so dangerous that the referee wisely abandons the game after an hour's play.

Arsenal receive an import blow when Johan Neeskens goes Stateside to join Cosmos instead — while an export from our shores looks like being Manchester City's Dave Watson.

He seems all set to join Bremen — and no doubt look forward to renewing club tussles with his England team-mate Kevin Keegan out there.

But transfer negotiations are going on all over the place — and at ever spiralling prices — so perhaps the last word should go to Football League chief Alan Hardaker.

Mr. Hardaker has a habit of shooting off his mouth, and not all will always agree. But few, if any, could dispute his latest statement that: "We must all get round the table and somehow talk some sense into this transfer situation . . . otherwise in time the whole professional game, as we know it, will break down."



England's Kevin Keegan takes on a Sweden defender during their friendly in Stockholm.



Jim McArthur saves at the near post during the Hibs/Rangers Scottish Cup Final.

SLOWLY but surely the Yanks, who turned football into show-business, are giving the game back to sport.

They promised us they would be World Champions one day and judging by my visit to the States, Diego Maradona and his pals may not be in danger yet, but they might one day soon.

I was over in Clearwater, Florida, holidaying for three weeks with the wife and kids but of course I took advantage of the trip to cast the old magnifying glass over the Stateside soccer scene.

I took in three games in all, each one at the home ground of the Tampa Bay Rowdies . . . against San Jose, Houston Hurricane and Fort Lauderdale.

It was fascinating to see just how much US soccer has improved but I really was surprised because I expected the standard to be a lot higher.

The match against the Strikers of Fort Lauderdale was particularly interesting because there was something of the Celtic v Rangers magic about it all. It is the nearest thing they will ever get in the States to a derby match.

Both teams are from Florida of course and that gives the fans a chance to travel. In most cases supporting the team and wearing the colours for away matches means trans-America flights of thousands of miles.

If you are a supporters' club secretary you don't rent buses, you charter aircraft. Honestly, I will never complain about the trip to Pittodrie to play Aberdeen again!

The Rowdies usually play to about 25,000 at home, but against Fort Lauderdale they drew 43,000 — a sure sign that local rivalry is alive and well.

And the star of it all was one Rodney Marsh. Rod-nee, one time idol of Q.P.R. and Manchester City was a revelation. The amount of work he got through was an eye-

opener and he looked a far better player than ever.

Of course he had so much more time over there and that suited his undeniable skills. But even apart from that Rodney has matured perfectly and is even the skipper of the Rowdies now.

I had a chat with him of course and he just loves it all. I think he is over there to stay and he is rapidly becoming as Yankee as the Fourth of July.

But he wasn't the only old friend I ran into. Ex-Celtic, Carlisle and Spurs favourite John Gorman is with the Rowdies and doing well. He was asking for all his old friends back home and John, myself and another member of the Celtic reserve side they called the Quality Street Kids had great times talking about the old days.

The third man? Well, it was my old buddy Davie Hay who, along with his family spent the last few days of his holiday with us.

Davie and I went out training together and he looks in good shape. His aim is to get back to training with Chelsea as soon as possible and then get back into the

first team after a suitable run-out with the reserve side in a bid to get in some match practice.

Over there I also met Martin Buchan, Steve Coppell and Willie Donachie.

Coaching for the summer were Joe Corrigan and Bob Wilson and the Americans are going big on teaching their youngsters.

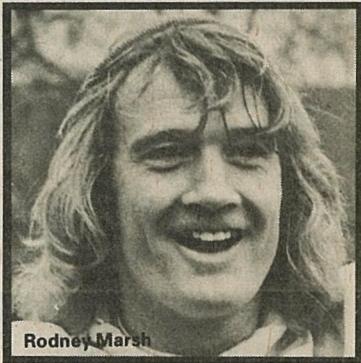
Indeed I was particularly tickled with the name of one coaching school which was tagged "Camp kick in the grass."

Oh yes, they are willing to learn all right . . . and that makes for some entertaining football, because players are applauded when they try something different, even if it doesn't come off.

It is not all good of course. Because of the size of the country it must be like playing in the European Cup sometimes and consequently the home side nearly always wins.

But I can say I was impressed . . . by the great American dream. Soccer Stateside? It is just a kick in the grass!

See you in two weeks . . .



Rodney Marsh

'The Great American Dream is coming true'



Danny (far left) met up with his former Celtic team-mate Davie Hay (centre) in the States.

Winfield young angler packs: the best tackle to start off with.

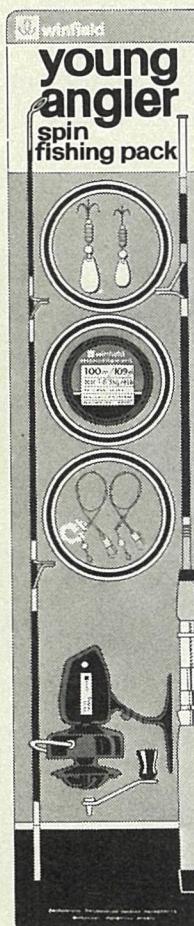
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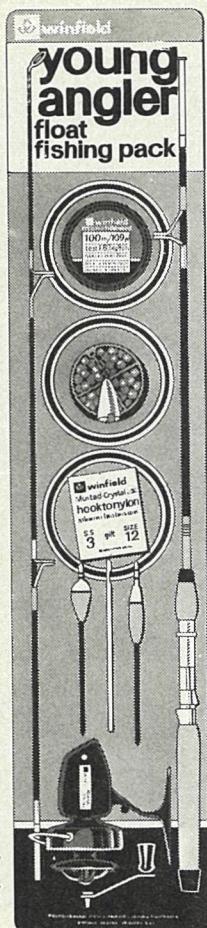
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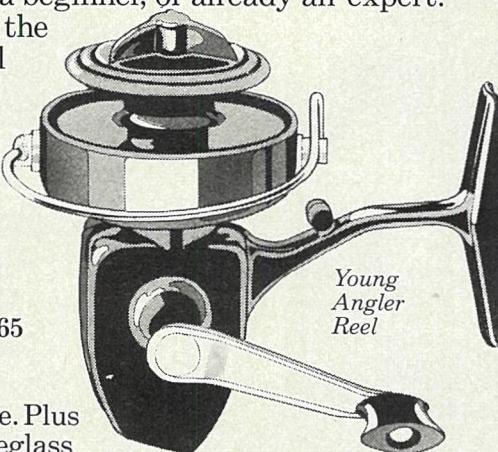
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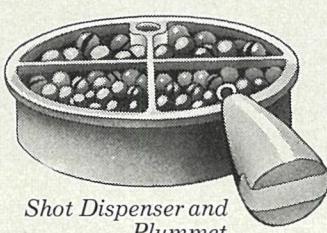


Float Fishing Pack

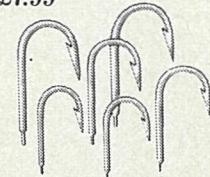
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AT HOME with Manchester United's



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JIMMY GREENH

MANCHESTER UNITED fans have been weaned on great strikers, so it says much for Jimmy Greenhoff that the 32-year-old goalscorer is a firm favourite with the Old Trafford crowd. They love his dash, his unselfish running . . . and most of all, his spectacular goals. But away from soccer Jimmy can forget the pressures of soccer at his lovely home near Crewe.

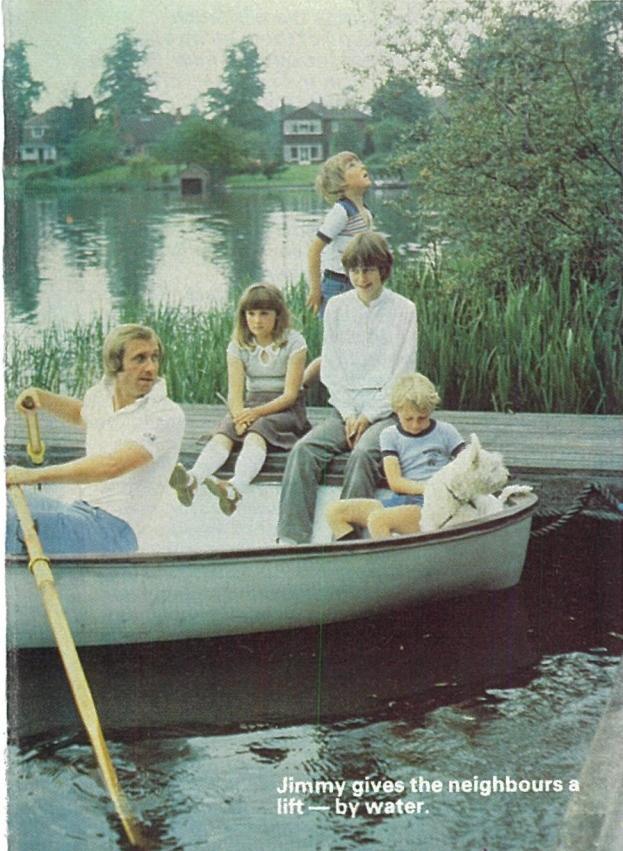


Jimmy and son Mark take good care of the family's gleaming four-door Rover saloon.



OFF

Team group — Jimmy, his wife Joan, and children Julie, 11 years, and Mark, aged 8½.



Jimmy gives the neighbours a lift — by water.



HOW STARS SPENT



'Touring, cricket, house alterations and relaxing'

JOHN SHAW Bristol City

DURING the close-season, the club did a tour of the United States and Canada. Starting with a visit to the West Coast, we beat Seattle Sounders 1-0, before crossing over the border into Canada for games in Vancouver. We drew 1-1 with Vancouver Whitecaps, beat a Select XI 8-3 on Vancouver Island then returned to America for a match in Portland, Oregon, which I missed through injury.

It was interesting to get a first-hand look at Soccer in the States. The North American Soccer League has grown in stature over the years and the Vancouver Whitecaps, managed by former Blackpool goalkeeper Tony Waiters, are one of the top sides there. They have a number of British players and signed Alan Ball after we'd been there. It was

good to meet up with some familiar faces and exchange soccer chat.

Then on returning to England, I spent the time before reporting for pre-season training in a variety of ways. There was quite a bit of work to be done in and around the house, including some alterations we were busy with. And when I wasn't busy at home, I played some cricket for a local team in Flax Bourton to give the muscles some additional exercise — but what I enjoyed most during the summer was the time I spent relaxing with my family, just lazing around and making the most of the break from football.

So this was the way I spent the close-season, but if I had a choice to make, I think I would prefer not to play any football, and instead would enjoy a complete rest from

the game. At the same time, we had a good time during our soccer tour abroad, and I know that there are players who look forward to having some football in another country during the close-season.

Speaking as a goalkeeper, I'm very much in favour of having a mid-winter break in the soccer season, and one experience I had last term will illustrate why I feel the way I do on this subject. Bristol City were away to West Bromwich on New Year's Day and the conditions were farcical, with the pitch frozen solid, making it impossible for either side to serve up good football.

It would be so much better, I believe, to have a lay-off during the winter. If it were, say, for a month, arrangements could be made for the season to start two weeks earlier and finish a fortnight later than it does at the moment. Admittedly, this would prevent players having the present extended spell away from the game in the summer — but it would be more than made up for by lessening the chances during the winter of teams turning out in the sort of conditions we experienced on some occasions last season.

Do I see any drawbacks to the close-season as it is? One I can think of is that it gives a player the opportunity to take a rest from every sort of physical activity — and this wouldn't do for me. I like to be on the go all of the time.

'Gardening, golf, tennis and squash'

CHRIS NICHOLL Southampton

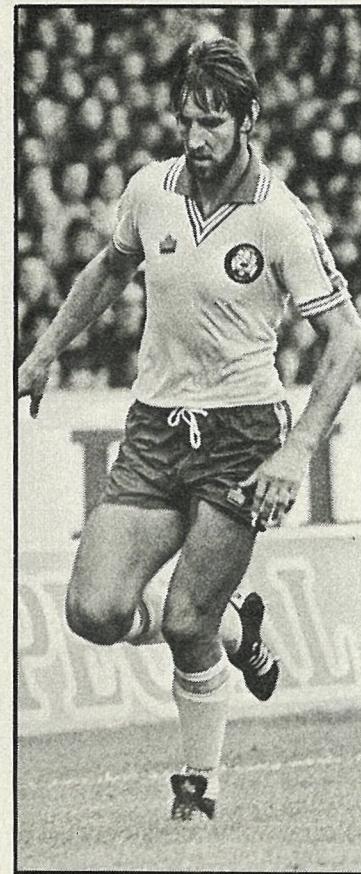
THE beginning of my close season was interrupted by the British Internationals, in which I particularly remember Northern Ireland's game against Wales in Belfast. Our display in the 1-1 draw with the Welsh was a definite improvement on our previous match at Belfast against England, when we lost 2-0, and after which I spent the night in hospital with slight concussion.

Playing in the Home Tournament meant that I missed Southampton's trip to Cairo, but I did go abroad later. I spent two weeks in Yugoslavia with my family, and we had just enough sun there to make the holiday enjoyable. The fortnight's relaxation prepared me for attending to the lawn and cutting the hedge on my return home, and I then got down to the serious

business of reducing my golf handicap. Golfing, plus games of squash and tennis, and taking our dog for walks helped to keep me in shape, not forgetting the inevitable jobs around the house, which can usually be best attended to during the summer.

Given my own choice on how to enjoy my leisure time in the close season, I don't think I could improve on the last few weeks, with the opportunity to be with my family. I was never bored, and the activities I was able to take part in were a welcome change from what I do for most months of the year. I am always relieved when the last game of the soccer season is over, and I can look forward to a spell of concentrating on other things.

The English soccer season has been geared so long to playing

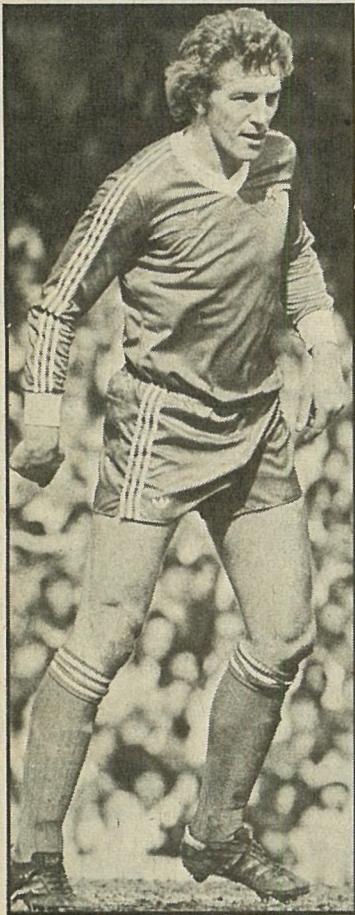


between August and May that I don't think there is much likelihood of there being any changes introduced now. Playing football in the summer, often on hard pitches and in the heat, is not an enjoyable experience for the players — it becomes a different sort of game in warm weather, and the conditions don't always help to produce the type of soccer the fans are accustomed to seeing. So I think we'll continue with soccer through the winter.

About the supporters — I firmly believe that if in the future they could all be seated and under cover, they would be perfectly happy for the season to go on without interruption even in a bad winter. Of course, this would take time and there is no guarantee when, or if ever, there will be seating for everybody at the big grounds. Meanwhile, for myself, I'm not in favour of a mid-season break in our League programme.

Summer tours — they are what is wrong with the close season. The English League programme is the heaviest in the world, and even in the pre-season training period there can be four or five "warm up" games which can be anything but friendly, because players are competing for places in the first team. It all adds up to too much football, and playing abroad in the summer reduces the close season to the extent that it is becoming too short.

THE CLOSE-SEASON



'Looking after my businesses'

STUART BOAM Middlesbrough

THE club took the players on one week's holiday, instead of a tour, at the beginning of the close season, and we spent a relaxing seven days in Majorca soaking up the sunshine. Then soon after our return to England, I took my wife and two children back to the Continent, this time for two weeks on the French Riviera. For this trip, as I dislike flying, we travelled by train, and for the children it was an interesting experience — previously, they had only made a long journey by plane, and to travel by rail for the first time was something entirely different for them. On the holiday, we enjoyed ourselves swimming and sunbathing.

Once back at home again, I was kept busy with my grocery and off-licence businesses, including the carrying out of alterations in one of the shops. Then there were holidays to arrange for my assistants and various details

which needed attention and took my mind completely away from football. For recreation, I played tennis and cricket when I could arrange it to work in with business hours, and also spent some of my leisure time in making presentations of medals and trophies.

I thoroughly enjoyed the close season, and wouldn't wish to have spent it any other way. I believe in a complete rest from soccer, mentally and physically, which is why going to the United States to play during the summer never appeals to me.

A mid-season break has no attraction in my opinion, and although the weather caused a hold-up last term, the winter was much more severe than usual. Once I've commenced the season proper, I don't like any interruptions in the programme, preferring to play straight through until the end of the term. I know

there are some places abroad where the season is interrupted, such as Yugoslavia, but I understand that the players there would rather keep on playing throughout the winter.

But apart from the feelings of British players on a break around Christmas time, I think it's important to take the feelings of the fans into consideration. For example, they are accustomed to eight months of non-stop soccer, with the climax of the season arriving in April or May. It is in the Spring that promotion and relegation issues are settled, plus the F.A. Cup Final and European Cup competitions to be decided — if the outcome of League Championships and Cup tournaments were held up until mid-summer, the interest of the fans might dwindle and attendances drop throughout the country. So I'm all in favour of retaining our present League programme from August to May.

Anything wrong with the close season? Yes — summer tours. I've been on two with Middlesbrough to Australia, playing 10 or 11 matches in the first, and eight or nine in the second, during a four-week period in each. And for me, it was a lesson learned — no more tours. Otherwise, the close season is just the right length, when there is no travelling abroad.

Continental travel sounds very glamorous — it is, except when all you see are airports, hotels and stadiums!

'Sunbathing in Florida, holidaying in Norfolk'

CLIVE WOODS Ipswich

We started the close season with an enjoyable ten-day tour in the United States, and we considered that we did well to win both our games, as several of the Ipswich side were away on international duty. We beat Detroit Express 1-0, followed by a closely-contested match with the Minnesota Kicks which was 0-0 at the end of normal time but finished with us winning 4-3 — there was a shoot-out, with the players given five seconds to dribble from a 35-yard line and beat the goalkeeper, and Ipswich just managed to come out on top.

Six of our days on tour were spent in Tampa, Florida, lazing around a swimming pool and doing only a small amount of training in beautiful sunshine.

I would describe our tour as a success in every way, and it

combined perfectly with my time spent at home to make the ideal close-season — this is exactly the way I would prefer to spend the summer if given the choice. The ten days in America were just long enough, the number of games played in that period were sufficient and put no stress on our team, and nobody suffered any injuries or strains. Then on my return to England, I did work on our house, attended to the garden vegetables and creosoted some fencing. Most important, I went with my wife and family to the Norfolk coast for a week's holiday, followed by playing some local cricket and also taking out some soccer amateurs for training sessions in early July. All this, plus some five-mile jogs on my own, had me in good trim for pre-season training.



Assuming that the winter is a normal one by English standards, and not as severe as in 1978-9 season, I would prefer to play right through the winter months without any break. I would be against a lay-off from the game, because in mid-term I would be geared up to a certain tempo, and to stop suddenly would make it tremendously difficult to get back into my stride when football resumed again. And I would feel the same whether or not the team, and myself, happened to be playing well, or badly, when the season was interrupted.

I would only change my mind in certain circumstances — if England had a succession of very cold winters, including blizzards and ice-bound grounds. Then I could see the need for a break during the winter, and if the lay-off was for a month at least, it would obviously be in the interest of the players if they kept on training during this period, so they wouldn't go stale. If a winter break were to be considered, perhaps a two-year trial period would be advisable, to judge the results of the experiment.

If there is a drawback to the present close-season, it is this — it is too short! With a short tour, a holiday with the family, plus jobs that have to be done on the home, there doesn't seem to be much time left before pre-season training starts in July.

As European clubs prepare for the new season, the spotlight is on South America this week

BRAZILIAN star Zico is the latest to make a film. He is to play the part of a soccer crazy Arab Prince!

IT seems as though Brighton knew what they were doing when they turned down Juan Carlos Oblitas of Peru. He has gone from one injury to another. On his comeback for Cristal against Alianza, he suffered an injury to an Achilles tendon, and once again has a leg in cast.

ONE of Argentina's many exciting new stars is midfielder Juan Barbas (right), who, along with Diego Maradona, turned in good performances during the Argentinians' recent European tour.

Barbas, who is 20 this month, is being groomed to take over Osvaldo Ardiles' place in the national side, and the two players met each other for the first time in Berne, when Ardiles flew back from the Spurs tour in Kuwait to rejoin his Argentinian team-mates. Barbas was over-awed by his first visit to Europe, and Ardiles did a lot to put his mind at rest.

He also warned the rising young

WORLD WIDE

COMPILED BY CHRIS DAVIES



Ardiles and his successor

Racing star that staying at the top is a good deal harder than getting there — particularly in the Argentinian national team because every opponent tries extra-hard to beat the World Champions.

"You've got to carry on working and working without getting any ideas of grandeur," warned the

Spurs star. "And above all, stay modest. That way you'll be better prepared to accept the Press criticisms that are bound to come your way when you hit a patch of bad form."

Barbas listened attentively to everything Ardiles told him and promised to 'engrave it on his

memory'. "What a fabulous bloke," he said when Ardiles had gone. "I just hope that one day I can be as good a player and person as he is. He's the perfect gentleman, and I must try to imitate him — I've got five brothers and it's up to me to set them a good example..."

ALFREDO THE GREAT

THOSE who had the privilege of seeing the great Alfredo di Stéfano play for Real Madrid will tell you he's the most complete forward there was. The Argentine-born centre-forward had an incredible record with the Spanish club, as the chart shows. I wonder when another player will have as many trophies when he retires?

COMPETITION	GAMES	GOALS	TITLES
League	282	218	1953/54, 1954/55, 1956/57, 1957/58, 1960/61, 1961/62, 1962/63, 1963/64
European Cup	58	49	1955/56, 1956/57, 1957/58, 1958/59, 1959/60
Spanish Cup	50	40	1961/62
Intercontinental Cup	2	1	1959/60
Latin Cup	4	2	
Caracas Trophy	8	2	
Carranza Trophy	6	8	
Costa del Sol Trophy	2	1	
Friendlies	17	16	
Internationals	77	80	
TOTAL	506	417	



Alfredo di Stéfano (left) enjoys a glass of beer with another famous Argentine, national team manager César Menotti. Di Stéfano has been re-appointed manager of Spanish club Valencia for next season.

THE traditional time-wasting method — that of kicking the ball out of the ground — has been forbidden by the Acre FA of Brazil. The reason is that outside the ground a bunch of boys were waiting for the ball which disappears very quickly! So any player indulging in this type of time wasting is to be fined by the FA — for each ball that is "lost" the player is fined the cost of a new ball: CR\$ 750.00 (£12.50).

More fighting than football

THE match played between the traditional rivals in Peru Alianza Lima and Universitario, was the highlight of the League to date. There is a great rivalry between both teams, similar to Liverpool and Everton or Celtic and Rangers.

Universitario were at the top of the League and were yet to be beaten. Alianza Lima, last year's Champions, were four points behind Universitario, but with one game in hand. Pressure on Alianza to win was greater because they had already lost twice against Universitario this year during their disappointing run in the Copa Libertadores.

The biggest crowd of the season turned up to watch what should have been an exciting game, but was a great disappointment. The match was very rough and players dedicated more time to fighting than playing football. Three players, Luces and Adriazola of Universitario and Huapaya of Alianza, were sent-off and six other players were shown the yellow card.

Alianza Lima were undoubtedly the better team and deserved to win by more than 1-0. Ironically the only goal of the game was scored by Ravello from a dubious penalty.

BRAINY BRAZIL

THE new Brazil team has been called "the side with the highest IQ we've ever had" by local journalists. Included in Cláudio Coutinho's line-up are a doctor (Sócrates, below), two accountants (Guina and Nelinho) while Abel is studying law and Falcão economics.



A SURVEY carried out in São Paulo (Brazil) reveals that the majority of spectators are aged between 25/40 followed by the 12/25 age group. Clubs are studying the possibilities of attracting more female supporters by providing play centres for younger children, where they could be left in complete safety by their parents — trained nurses and medical staff would be on duty.

This facility would be provided free by the clubs. Clubs are also worried because of the large number of spectators who get into matches — by one means or another — without paying.

It is estimated that on big match days some 15,000 spectators manage to get in without paying.

'ZICO as good as Keegan'

THE happiest person with Zico's performance in Buenos Aires, playing for the Rest of the World against Argentina, was Brazilian manager Cláudio Coutinho, who said: "I think now they will stop saying that Zico can only play in the Maracaná. He is, perhaps, on a par with Kevin Keegan, the best player in the world right now and will prove it in the next World Cup."

Zico, himself, was pleased, because last year he had a disappointing World Cup and even in Brazil was plagued by critics claiming he was

"afraid of playing outside the Maracaná Stadium." When Brazil played Ajax in São Paulo last month, thrashing them 5-0, Zico was first greeted with boos and jeers from a hostile "paulista" (that is, the crowd from the state of São Paulo) but the jeers turned to applause when he scored two of Brazil's goals in the second-half.

"I think the crowd have a right to boo," says Zico. "But I am a human being and upset when I realise that it is done just out of a myopic regionalism and even before the game starts."

What Tarantini didn't say while he was in England



Tarantini in his new colours of Talleres.

ALBERTO Tarantini has had an eventful 23 years of life — or to be more exact, he's packed an awful lot of living into the last six years. Because when he was 17, "Conejo" (Rabbit) Tarantini was just like any other young hopeful in the Boca Juniors youth sides, getting up at six in the morning to make the long bus trip from Ezeiza across Buenos Aires to the Boca training ground at La Candela. Then suddenly it all started to happen. Tarantini was called into the first-team to replace the great Marzolini at full-back; Boca started winning titles left, right and centre; Alberto couldn't agree new terms with the club; after two years of legal wrangling he was declared a "free" player; the Argentine F.A. paid his salary during the six-month World Cup build-up; and on June 25th, 1978, Tarantini helped Argentina become World Champions.

On top of the world, and free to negotiate his own lucrative transfer, Alberto headed for Spain. Barcelona agreed to sign him if he could acquire Spanish nationality. Conejo's private life was already complicated enough thanks to his romance with actress "Pata" Villanueva, who had a daughter from her previous marriage and, according to Argentine law, was still married. After several picturesque episodes, Alberto gave up and left Barcelona. Argentine agent Oscar "Fatty" Martinez promptly fixed up a £250,000 transfer to Birmingham City.

In March, SHOOT broke the news that Tarantini wanted to leave, and he's now playing in the Córdoba Provincial League with powerful Talleres. After six hectic years, he's settling in his native country, and it's interesting to hear what he's been telling the folks back home about the season he spent in the blue shirt of Birmingham City.



And with Argentina, who he helped to World Cup success last year.

'ALOT of people think I've come back to Argentina because I was a failure in England, but that isn't true at all. In fact everything went very well for me over there, both on the field and off. The only thing I could complain about was the weather! The cold was unbelievable and there seemed to be snow on the ground all the time.

I certainly can't complain about the treatment I received. The people were great and our standard of living was very good. In fact Pata didn't want to leave — she really loved it over there. We bought a nice house in a residential area of Birmingham and we lived well. I made a fair chunk of cash on the transfer deal and, what with that plus the salary and bonuses, we weren't short of money. Pata handled all the domestic accounts, and she used to moan at me if she thought we were spending too much. I wouldn't say we went out a great deal, but we had friends round a lot and we enjoyed ourselves.

No, the only problem was that the team was in a bad way, and it didn't surprise anyone when we were relegated. Personally I did all right. Did you know I was elected the "best sweeper in England" last year? I ended up playing in all different positions because they were pretty desperate for cover in some departments of the team.

Anyway, there was no way I was going to play in the Second Division, and fortunately I had had a special clause put in the contract to make sure I didn't! In any case, the fans didn't want me to leave at the end of the season, and some of the directors didn't like it either.

They wanted to transfer me to Manchester United for £375,000 but there was some doubt about whether I'd get a fair percentage of the transfer fee — and anyway, it would have been difficult to get that sort of money out of the country.

River Plate made a good offer, but they had to back out when Boca Juniors made some legal complications. So when Talleres

came in with an offer of £225,000 everyone was satisfied. I had an offer from the Cosmos too, but that was completely out of the question!

The "elephants' cemetery" at 23-years-of-age! That really would have been the end of my career, because you can't gain reputations in the U.S.A. — you can only watch them fade away.

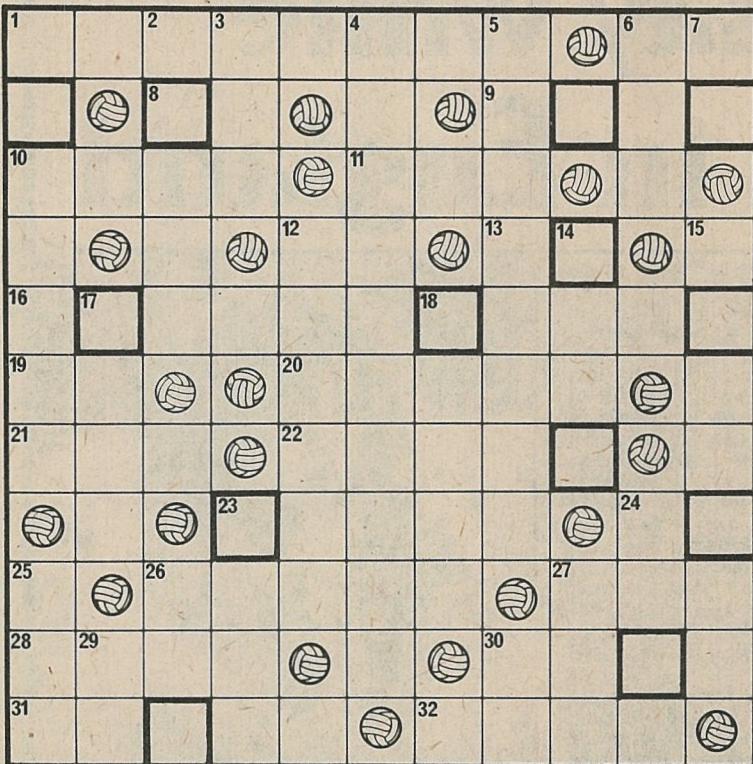
I think I learned a lot as a player in England. I had to! The game is a lot faster and tougher over there, and you've got to have guts to stand the pace. I think I've gained a lot in strength and power without making any special effort.

It's been an important phase on my personal life, too. At last I was able to lead a peaceful private life with Pata. All that business in Barcelona when they tried to get me to marry some Spanish girl was terrible for both of us. Our year in Birmingham has brought us a lot closer together, and I'll tell you one thing — we'll never forget it because our little daughter Maria Bernarda was born there! /



With Sue Bloar, Miss Birmingham City. The Argentine was one of the judges.

After solving the clues in this specially compiled crossword, you can use the letters in the thick-edged squares to form the name of a Nottingham Forest striker. Answers on page 42.



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Go for the Double

ACROSS:-

- (1) — Ground of Darlington.
- (6) Mick L--bert of Peterborough United.
- (8) Les Str--g (Fulham). The omissions reversed.
- (9) Spur on!
- (10) — Gray, striker with 4 Down.
- (11) — Drake, former famous name with Arsenal.
- (12) --merset Park, Ayr United's ground.
- (13) John Mc--well of West Ham.
- (16) Scottish Division Two club from Central Park.
- (19) S--cil Bank, home of The Red Imps.
- (20) Take five letters from Everton for a happening.
- (21) Barn--e, The Colliers.
- (22) Mick --, Ipswich Town defender, or midfielder.
- (23) In a manner of speaking — one's legs might "turn to" this in a very 31 Across type of situation.
- (24) Jim Pl--t of Middlesbrough.
- (26) Walk obliquely and furtively.
- (27) Mat--ws. What completes the former famous name of soccer?
- (28) Alan --r-is-ley (Birmingham). Fish from the missing letters.
- (30) Mill---; ground of Rotherham United.
- (31) Strained or highly strung.
- (32) — Owen, recent signing for West Brom.

DOWN:-

- (1) Surname of record transfer fee player.
- (2) M-a--- La-e (Notts County). A word meaning "invest with" from the omissions.
- (3) --n- Currie, England midfield player.
- (4) They have won the F.A. Cup a record seven times. (5 & 5)
- (5) Abruptly.
- (6) Vicar--- Road; ground of Watford.
- (7) Ca--ron. What completes the surname of a P.N.E. player?
- (12) Wolv--ra-pton Wan--r-r-. Appeared from the missing letters.
- (14) Ro-- H-II Ground (Southend United). Cereal from the omissions.
- (15) English Third Division club.
- (17) Reshuffle Lyon (French League club) to give "exclusively".
- (18) Vue Ground, Doncaster Rovers.
- (23) --orn Nordqv--t (Sweden): World's most-capped player. Sails from the missing letters.
- (24) B-ot-ferr-P-rk (Hull City). Nautical haul from the omissions.
- (25) De-n --our-. Home of Bourne-mouth.
- (26) ---derland play at Roker Park.
- (27) A hill from Torquay United.
- (29) Mark McG--e of Aberdeen (ex-Newcastle).
- (30) Teddy --ybank of Brighton.

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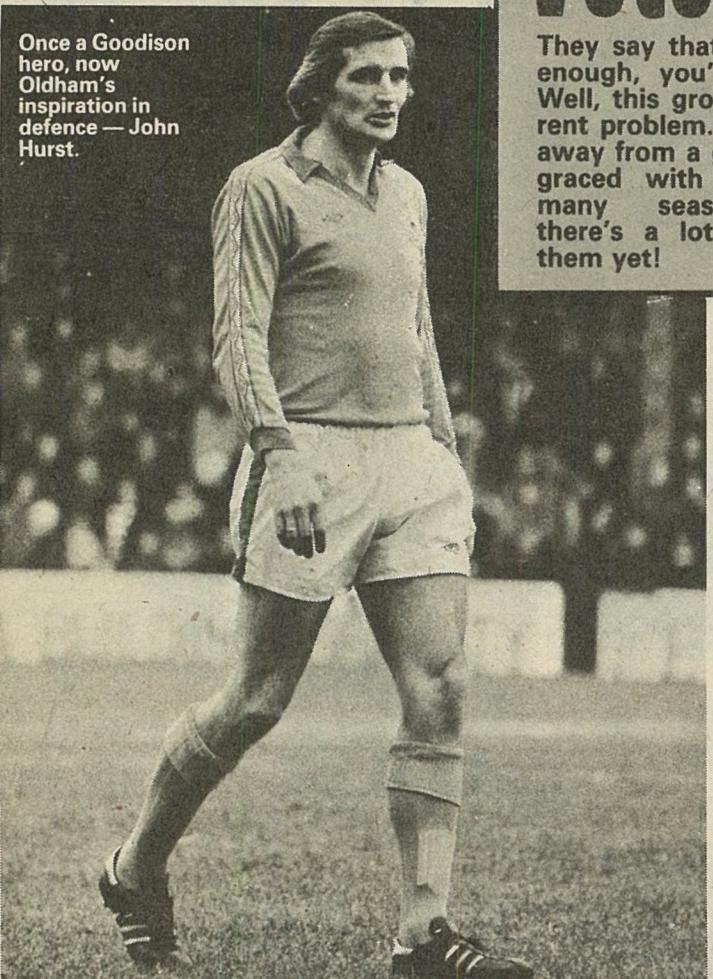


Leeds' Paul Madeley
has given fine service
to his only League
club.



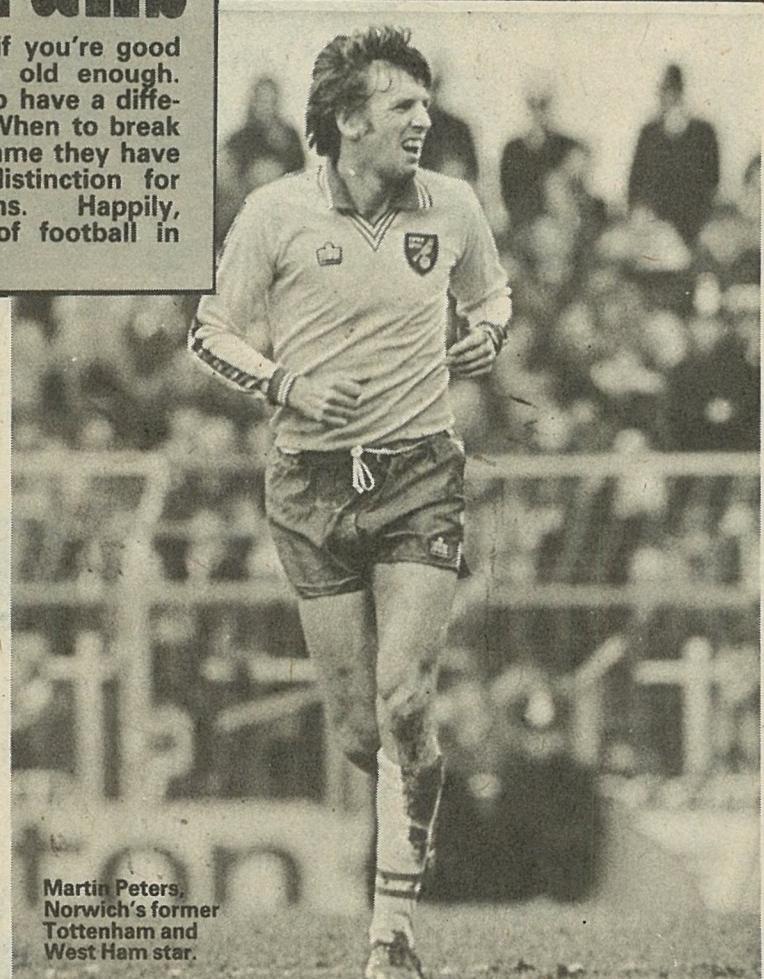
Carry On Veterans

Once a Goodison hero, now
Oldham's
inspiration in
defence — John
Hurst.



They say that if you're good enough, you're old enough. Well, this group have a different problem. When to break away from a game they have graced with distinction for many seasons. Happily, there's a lot of football in them yet!

Martin Peters,
Norwich's former
Tottenham and
West Ham star.



BRILLIANT FOOTWORK.

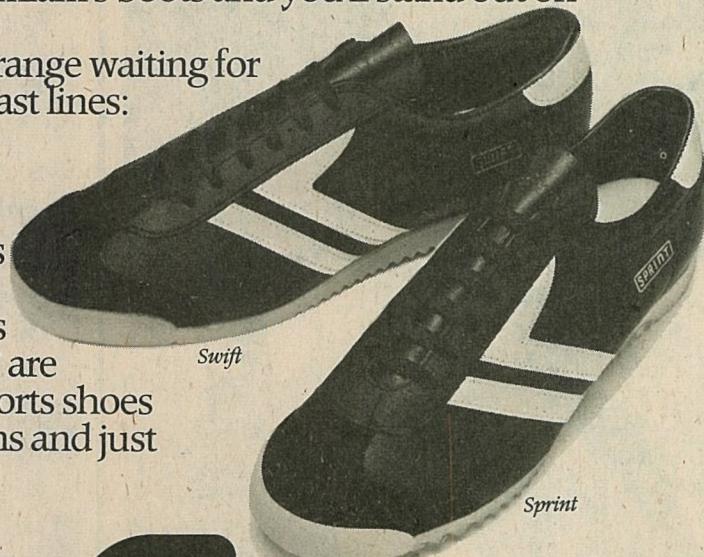


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LIKE a man emerging from a 12 month nightmare, Malcolm Macdonald flexed his left knee, snapped it back and told SHOOT: "I'm fit. I'm in charge of my own destiny again. I've come to terms with this injury situation and know exactly what this knee can do."

If Macdonald's eight-match stint with Swedish club Djurgården is anything to go by, the Arsenal striker will do exactly what he's been doing since he began a colourful and sometimes controversial career with Southern League Tonbridge 12 years ago... score goals.

As Arsenal celebrated winning the F.A. Cup, Macdonald had to sit in the background, a frustrated spectator watching his team-mates achieve the thing he wants more than anything in football — a Wembley winner's medal.

Arsenal's best season for eight years was the worst in the former England centre-forward's career. Two days after limping ineffectively through the 1978 F.A. Cup Final defeat by Ipswich, he had a cartilage operation. After

knows that his left knee has taken a lot of punishment. It has limitations.

"It is terrible to sit around with a limb in plaster while people are talking about you. My mind was in a turmoil anyway. I did not need the prophets of doom. Then came the black period when even I started to wonder if I would be able to play again.

"When the specialist told me that things were not as bad as first thought I felt a tremendous surge of relief. I know what my knee can take in terms of stress and

pressure. And it is perfectly capable of taking First Division pressures. I had to be sure. Sweden gave me that confidence.

"At first I had to adapt to the knee rather than the other way around. But once a few goals went in and a few tackles were brushed off I stepped things up and put it through the necessary stress. That's how I know I will score goals in the First Division next season."

Goals are what the man is about. His record stands at 191 League goals in 379 League games. In all

SUPER FIT SUPERMAC RARING TO GO AGAIN

four games and one goal of season 1978-79 he was back in hospital having a cartilage removed from the left knee. Things got worse. The knee kept swelling up. Whispers became rumours... rumours became fears. The word went around that Macdonald's career was finished.

He fought back. A third operation and months of lonely training were rewarded when a specialist told him he had overcome a bad injury and could resume his career.

Macdonald said: "Arsenal let me build up my fitness by playing in Sweden and without doubt my spell with Djurgården was just what I needed.

"To my surprise, they played me in a withdrawn role. I was pushing the ball through for our two front runners and I admit that I enjoyed the change. It also made sure that I avoided the very heavy physical punishment front strikers can get while I was strengthening the leg.

"A Swedish journalist asked me if I was going to change my game when I arrived back to England. I told him I missed getting into the penalty-area and would never alter my style. I am a goalscorer, that's my strength.

"I missed my wife and family while I was in Sweden, but it was an experience. Certainly I got good publicity all the time.

"And when I scored the goal that gave us a 1-0 away win over League leaders Elfsborg I could have claimed the freedom of the town for 48 hours afterwards."

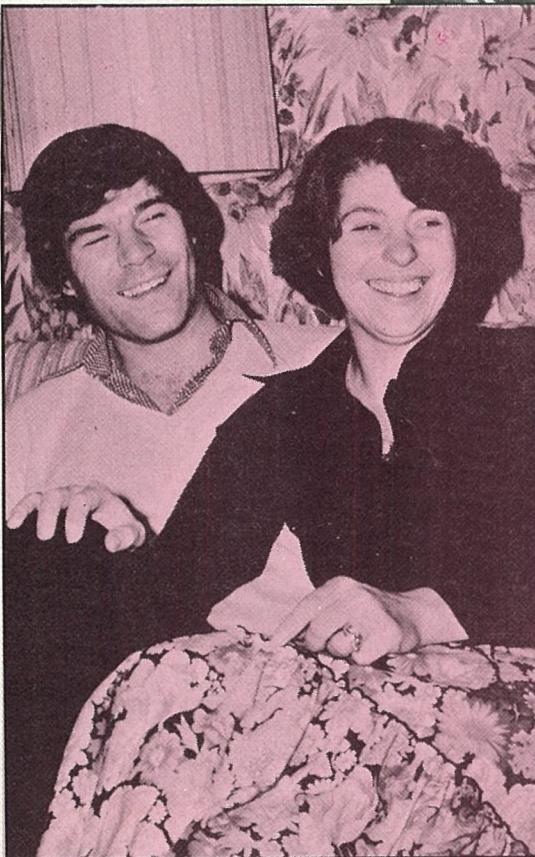
Macdonald is a realist, however. From the verge of despair he has proved a lot of so-called experts wrong. But he knows every game from now on is a bonus. And he

competitions — international, F.A. Cup and League Cup — his 250th first-class goal was scored against Manchester City at Maine Road on August 22nd last year.

As if to remind the football world of his existence, Macdonald headed Arsenal's point-winning equaliser at Chelsea in their final game of last season before packing his bags for Sweden.

"I have done most things in football. But I have never played a full game in a European competition. This season will be Arsenal's first in the European Cup-Winners' Cup. I want to be involved, especially after playing as substitute against Red Star Belgrade last season. That gave me the taste and I look forward to the challenge."

He flexed the left knee again: "And I do know a thing or two about challenges."



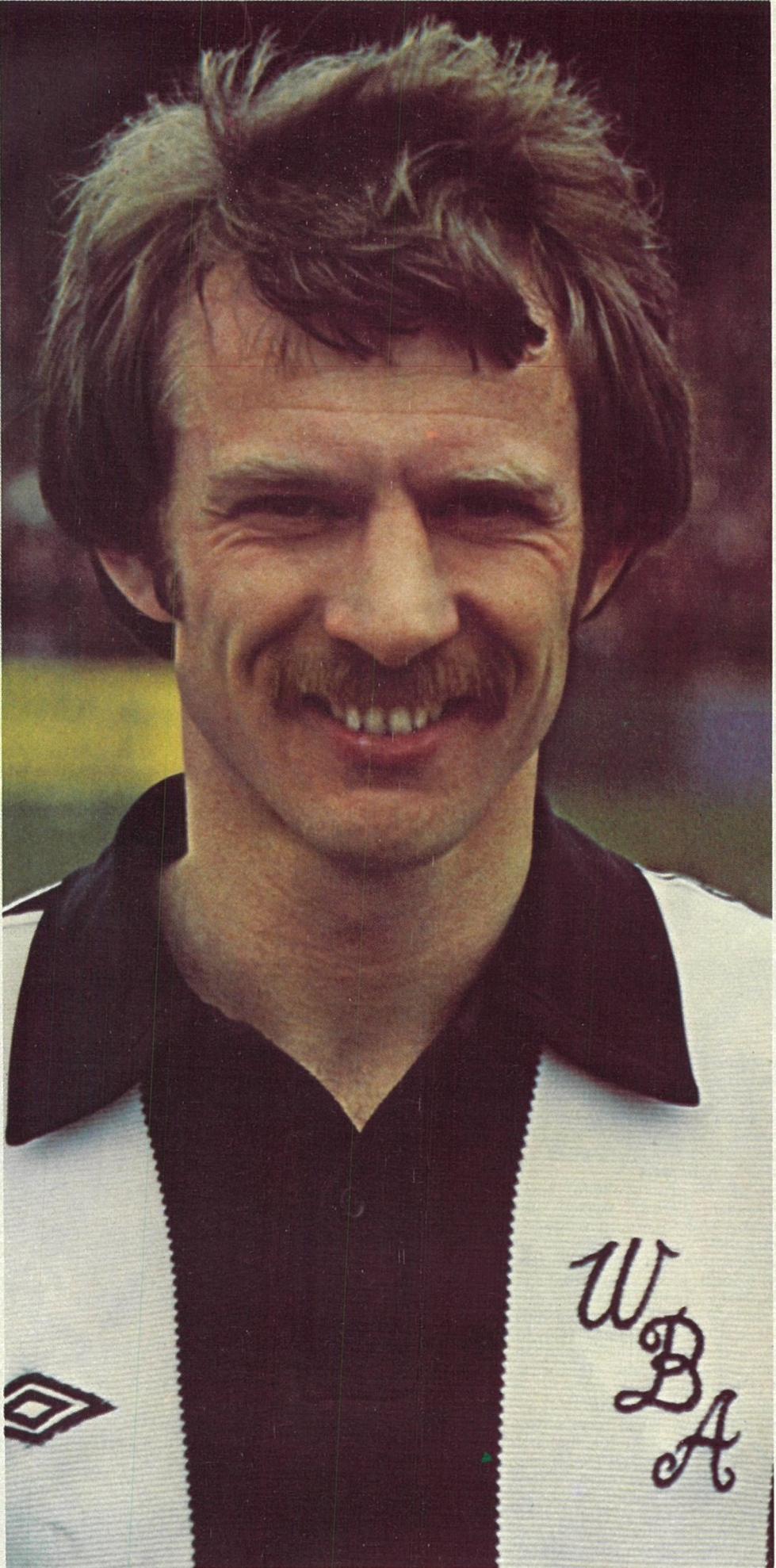


BYRON STEVENSON
LEEDS UNITED

SHOOT!

FOCUS ON DAVID MILLS W.B.A.

FULL NAME: David John Mills
BIRTHPLACE: Robin Hoods Bay, Yorkshire
BIRTHDATE: 6th December, 1951
HEIGHT: 5ft 8½ins
WEIGHT: 10st 10lbs
PREVIOUS CLUB: Middlesbrough
MARRIED: Yes, to Sandra
CHILDREN: One son and daughter
CAR: Renault 18 GTS
FAVOURITE PLAYER: Don't have one
FAVOURITE OTHER TEAM: I don't have a favourite team, they're all enemies
MOST DIFFICULT OPPONENT: Former Bristol City defender Norman Hunter, now Barnsley
MOST MEMORABLE MATCH: Winning my first England Under-23 cap v Scotland and scoring in a 2-0 win
BIGGEST THRILL: Winning my Under-23 caps
BIGGEST DISAPPOINTMENT: Losing to Manchester City in the League Cup Semi-Final whilst with Middlesbrough
BEST COUNTRY VISITED: Australia
FAVOURITE FOOD: Scampi
MISCELLANEOUS LIKES: Driving, reading, travelling and holidays abroad
MISCELLANEOUS DISLIKES: Bad drivers and losing at anything
FAVOURITE TV SHOWS: The Two Ronnies, The Benny Hill Show and most sports programmes
FAVOURITE SINGERS: Elton John, John Denver and Nana Mouskouri
FAVOURITE ACTORS/ACTRESSES: Richard Burton, Clint Eastwood, Natalie Wood and Claudia Cardinale
BEST FRIENDS: I've no one in particular. I have many good close friends
BIGGEST INFLUENCE ON CAREER: My father. Then George Wardle (youth team coach at Boro) and finally Jack Charlton
BIGGEST DRAG IN SOCCER: Being injured
INTERNATIONAL HONOURS: Eight England Under-23 caps
PERSONAL AMBITION: To be successful in life
PROFESSIONAL AMBITION: To win football's major honours
IF YOU WEREN'T A FOOTBALLER, WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'D BE? I don't honestly know. But I would possibly be a PE teacher
WHICH PERSON IN THE WORLD WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO MEET? Muhammad Ali



WHEN a new manager arrives at a club it's inevitable changes will be made sooner or later.

Certain players won't suit his plans or tactics . . . maybe he won't like the look of his inherited number two or coaching staff.

I suppose it's understandable. Every manager has his own ideas and will want to surround himself with people who share his views and know how he works.

As I write Derby's new boss Colin Addison has just appointed Grimsby boss John Newman as his assistant after allowing Frank Blunstone to leave the club. I don't know what he has in mind for the rest of us at the Baseball Ground.

He might consider my talents are surplus to his requirements. I hope not because as I've said in previous columns I feel fairly settled at Derby at the moment and want the opportunity to prove myself to the fans.

Besides, I've just moved into a new house in Ashbourne in the Derbyshire countryside and have no wish to uproot myself at present.

Whatever Colin has in mind, I certainly wish him well at Derby. He can depend on my full support and that of the other lads at the club.

Before he came to the Baseball Ground I'd only met the new gaffer once, when he was manager at Newport County.

I attended a player's function at

'1979-80 A TESTING TIME FOR DERBY'

Somerton Park to support my old Millwall pal Brian Clark and was introduced to Mr Addison.

A young boss in the Alan Mullery, Graham Taylor, Terry Venables mould, he's certainly learned his trade the hard way.

He played in midfield for York, Nottingham Forest, Arsenal and Sheffield United before serving a managerial apprenticeship at Hereford, Notts County, Durban City in South Africa, West Brom and now Derby County.

I understand Colin rejected bids from Sunderland and Cardiff City to become their manager earlier in the year because as he said: "They were not First Division clubs."

On the first morning of pre-season training, when most of the Derby lads met him for the first time, Colin said that the reason he chose Derby was because: "They were the right club at the right time. It was always my ambition to take over a First Division club and I just couldn't turn down this opportunity."

my soccer scene
GORDON HILL



Colin Addison will need time to settle in at the Baseball Ground.



Colin also said he was in line for the manager's job at West Brom before Ron Atkinson was appointed 18 months ago.

He later landed the number two spot at The Hawthorns, of course.

Our new boss is also aware he was second choice for the Derby County hot-seat, after Alan Durban.

Not that it worries him any. I like a fighter and admire people with the courage to admit they've got faith in their own ability . . . and he's got that all right.

Derby have had their problems on and off the field, but Colin had no hesitation in leaving a secure position at West Brom to face a stern challenge at the Baseball Ground.

Anyway, I'm now well into pre-season training and looking forward to the big kick-off on August 18th.

I was glad to report back to the club this year for what is normally four weeks of sheer torture.

Apart from a couple of charity matches for BBC TV sports presenter Tony Gubba's Celebrity team



Gordon desperately wants to win back his England shirt from West Bromwich Albion's Peter Barnes.

In Spain, I've had very little opportunity to test my knee, following the cartilage operation I had last season.

I'm pleased to report the leg is fine and as yet I've not even felt a twinge.

I missed so much of last term that I only wish I could have played out in America during the summer or in Sweden as Arsenal's Malcolm Macdonald has done.

Playing during the close-season would have given me the match practice and competitive edge I've missed for so long.

Malcolm, whose whole future was in doubt after a couple of operations, was a tremendous success in Sweden and is now right back in contention at Arsenal.

Although Derby County have a couple of pre-season matches in Austria during the first week of August I won't really be able to test the knee fully until I kick a ball against First Division opposition.

Kevin Keegan told me that cartilage injuries don't completely clear up for 18 months. If that's so then you won't see the old Gordon Hill until the 1980-81 season.

Whether Kev's right or not I don't know, but it's made me even more determined to get back on top during 1979-80.

In all honesty I can't say Derby County will be serious title challengers in the new season.

The side needs strengthening in one or two departments, Colin Addison needs a while to settle and build while players who were injured last term will need time to recover their form.

The most important target for Derby in 1979-80 is one of consolidation... to strengthen our position in the First Division and ensure we finish in a respectable position, maybe even aim for a place in the U.E.F.A. Cup.

The club have received a great deal of bad publicity recently. None of it concerned the players, but it's in our power to put those problems behind us.

A winning side, or one with the potential to be successful in the near future, will soon make the fans forget the past.

If the League title's out for The Rams next term, don't write us off for one of the Cup competitions where consistency isn't as vital.

Over the past few seasons a young manager taking over a new club has found success.

Graham Taylor at Watford, Alan Mullery at Brighton, Terry Venables at Crystal Palace, John Toshack at Swansea, Allan Clarke at Barnsley. Now watch out for Colin Addison at Derby. I've a feeling he's also going places.

So it's a testing time for all at the Baseball Ground.

If I do well then I expect to regain my international status.

As regular readers will know I desperately want my England shirt back... Peter Barnes has worn it for too long.

Seriously, I feel I am good enough to fit in with Ron Greenwood's future plans and will be very disappointed if I don't at least make the squad in the new season.

Take care... and if you are on holiday I hope the sun's shining on you.

A first season double for Luton's KIRK STEPHENS

In his first season in League football, Kirk Stephens, the 24-year-old Luton Town right-back, scooped two trophies. He won The Century Club's award as their best player and he was also voted Player of the Year by the Kenilworth Road fans.

"It's embarrassing," says Kirk. "Obviously I'm delighted, but I couldn't have pulled it off without the help of the players around me. Maybe they made me look a better player than I actually am, I don't know."

Kirk joined Luton last summer from non-League Nuneaton Borough at the giveaway price of £5,000.

"David Pleat first signed me for Nuneaton about six years ago when he became manager at Manor Park," says Kirk. "I played under Dave at Borough for about eight months until he resigned. He said at the time he thought I was a pretty good player and that he had a great deal of confidence in me."

"He also told me that, if he ever got the chance to manage a League club, then he'd think seriously about signing me."

"The years went by at Nuneaton. I'd played there for six years, and I was beginning to think I would be spending my next six years there as well."

'Great Start'

"Then it happened all at once. I came home from my holidays and the next thing I knew was Luton had put in a bid for me and would I be interested in joining them. Of course, I jumped at the chance."

Kirk made his debut for Luton in the opening match of the season against Oldham at Kenilworth Road. "We won 6-1," he says.

"What a great start to my League career."

"How did I find the transition from non-League football? Training full-time was the biggest factor. The pace of the game is faster and consequently I had to think quicker. But I've got better players around me. There's so much skill in the side at Luton with the likes of Ricky Hill and Alan West."

As a schoolboy Kirk was on the books of his home town team of Coventry City. "Things didn't work out for me at Highfield Road," he says. "They said I wasn't quite good enough to make the grade. Then I had trials at Blackpool, Northampton and Peterborough.

"Northampton and Peterborough each offered me a contract, but I felt I stood a better chance of being spotted playing for Nuneaton Borough, so I signed for them."

Kirk started off as a right-winger. Then he moved to midfield and eventually worked his way to right back.

"Now I'm at Luton, the boss has emphasised how much he wants to go forward and he uses me as an attacking full-back. This is my game. I love playing football where I can attack."

"People talk about the good old days here at Luton when the team were in the First Division, but I think you've got to forget the past and concentrate on the future."

"We're a young team, and with all the new faces that arrived at the club over the past year, we spent last season getting to know one another."

"Next term, providing we start off on a high note, then I see no reason why we shouldn't continue to make progress. Obviously, I'd love a crack at playing in the top grade now I've found my feet in the Second."

"It's all happened so quickly for me. I've not really thought about any other ambition apart from helping Luton to get into the First Division and having another marvellous season with them."



No 6

SOCCE SUPERSTARS

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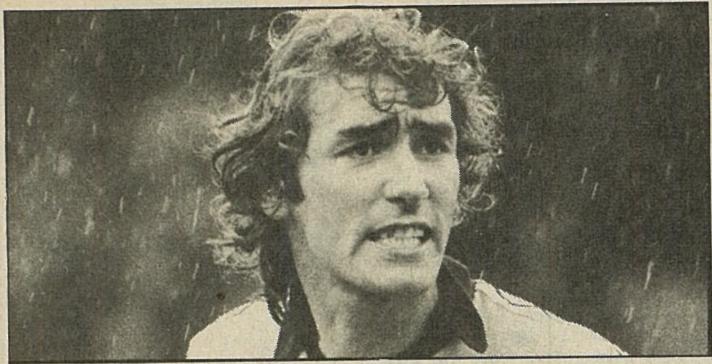


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'WOLVES ARE AIMING, FOR EUROPE' Says JOHN McALLE

JOHN McAlle, Wolverhampton Wanderers' central defender, is fed-up with the Molineux fans who dwell on the past at the expense of the present.

They spend their lives condemning the players who represent the First Division club today, preferring to turn back the pages of history and talk about the "glorious Fifties".

Give them a straight vote between John Richards, Wolves' striker, and Dennis Wilshaw, the goal-scoring ace of the 1950's, and the majority of them would go for Wilshaw, says McAlle.

"You're always a better player when you've hung up your boots — and you're always a better team ten years later," he emphasises.

"It was a magical era. So many people talk about it. But it's done and finished," he snaps.

McAlle prefers to talk about the present — and the rejuvenation of Wolves under new manager John Barnwell.

"We've got to set our sights on getting into the top half of the First Division and staying there," he said. "You never know, with a little bit of luck we may just get into Europe and we might do well in one of the Cup competitions like we did last term."

John, 29, bases his reasoning on the players' belief in the new management team of John Barnwell and Richie Barker.

"I think we're all aware here at Wolverhampton that the duo know something about the game," he said. "We appreciate that and respect them for it. If the management want something done, then the players will respond because the respect is there. And that's the main thing about management, really."

"Obviously, with the results we've had since their arrival, then it's working. Last season we swung into a rhythm where we averaged something like 27 points from 27 matches. If we can keep that sort of form up for the whole of next term, then we won't be in a bad position at the end, will we?"

"We consolidated and we all started to play well as a team. There were a few lapses in between, but all in all the consistency was there. If we reach the same level of consistency next season then, as I've said, we should reach our goal and get into the top half of the League and maybe win ourselves a European spot, which will be great."

"Our last spell in Europe came after we won the Football League Cup in 1974, when we beat Manchester City 2-1. Before that we did well in the League a couple of times and reached the Final of the U.E.F.A. Cup, losing 3-2 to Tottenham in 1972."

"Then a couple of the older players retired and there was movement to other clubs. After that we didn't seem to hit it again and we haven't hit it since."

"It's true we did win the Second Division Championship at the end of the 1976-77 campaign, but that was with the same team that we went down with. It was great to bounce straight back into the top grade, but it's not the same as carrying off the First Division title, is it?"

"Now everything has changed and there are fresh ideas within the club. With the attitude of the management and players I can see Wolves doing far better than we did last year. I certainly can't see us struggling as we have done over the past two seasons."

John, who has been at Wolves for close on 15 years, is the type of player who simply does his job and gets on with the game.

"I enjoy my football," he says, "and if I'm not playing well, then I worry about it. I feel I'm experienced enough now to help the younger players develop."

"Just at the moment there are a few young lads, who are not bad players, and they're keeping one or two of the first teamers on their toes."

'KEVIN REEVES— Another Kevin Keegan'

reckons his Norwich boss John Bond

THE last thing John Bond did before going on holiday in June was turn down a £450,000 bid for Kevin Reeves.

Arsenal were the club dangling the big money for the exciting young Norwich striker.

And Norwich — not one of the game's richest or more fashionable clubs — could have done with that boost to their bank balance.

Yet Bond had no hesitation in turning the offer down. For he knows that in Reeves he has one of the hottest properties in football — a 21-year-old who could develop into another Kevin Keegan.

West Bromwich Albion made a big bid last year, before they signed David Mills. And several other clubs are casting envious eyes in the direction of the talented Reeves.

They are all wasting their time. For Bond makes it clear that the kid is staying at Carrow Road — at least for the time being.

"Kevin and I have discussed his future at great length," explains Bond. "He is set to become one of the biggest stars in the game and we accept that he will have to move on eventually.

"But that day is a long way off yet. I reckon Norwich will get three or four more good years out of him before anything happens.

"He is happy to settle for that, for he is enjoying football — and life — in East Anglia.

accomplished footballer that he could do well in any position.

"If I was forced to play him at full-back or centre-half I could do it confident in the knowledge he would do well there.

"Kevin is also an intelligent lad, who picks things up quickly. If you want something particular from him you only have to tell him once.

"He is also a nice lad, who knows how to behave himself. There are no moods or tantrums from him and when he travels away with England teams I know he won't do anything to harm the name of Norwich City.

"The description 'manager's dream' is abused a lot and given to players who don't deserve it.

"But in Kevin's case it is fully justified. I've never had a minute's trouble from him and know that I never will.

"We have got a great relationship. If he has got any problems he knows he can always talk to me about them and I will do everything in my power to help him."

Bond's commendable stand won't stop other clubs showing an ever increasing interest in Reeves.

Good players are like gold dust and this boy at the moment is worth a lot of money — certainly more than £450,000.

He is getting better all the time and will play a starring part in Bond's bid to make Norwich a real force in the game for some time to come.

Adamant

"When West Brom came in last year I called him into my office and told him about it. He was adamant that he did not want to go — and nothing has happened since to cause him to change his mind."

Bond signed Reeves from his former club, Bournemouth, three years ago for £50,000. And at that price he is looking like one of the biggest bargains of all time.

He has made steady progress since moving into the First Division and his form with the England Under 21's and B teams on the recent tour to Bulgaria, Sweden and Austria was a revelation.

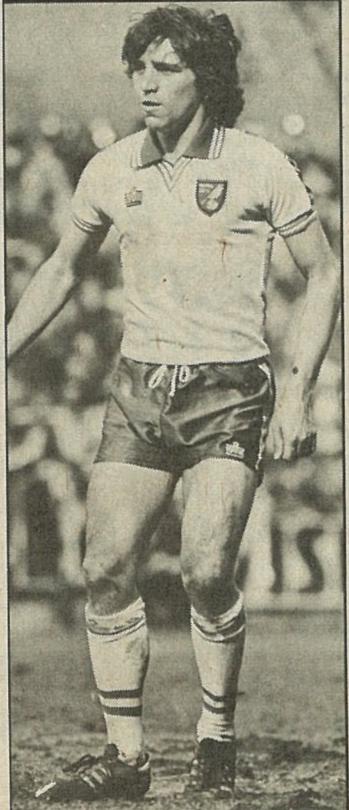
Reeves had good judges like Ron Greenwood, Dave Sexton, Don Howe and Terry Venables beaming with pleasure at his skills and it is only a question of time before he adds a full cap to his collection.

It was undoubtedly a rave report from Howe — coach to the 'B' team — that prompted Arsenal to make their ambitious bid for him.

"All the people I've spoken to who were on that tour told me how well Kevin had played — and his form does not surprise me one bit," claims Bond.

"He is an absolutely brilliant player who has the necessary qualities to develop into another Keegan — and there can be no higher praise than that.

"He is quick, sharp and such an



DUNDEE UNITED'S PAUL HEGARTY - why he flopped as a goalscorer

DUNDEE UNITED'S talented centre-back Paul Hegarty knows one thing is certain this new season . . . he will lose a title!

Hegarty was voted Scotland's Player of the Year last term by his fellow professionals. It was an award he richly deserved after a superb and consistent season with the Tannadice club, but it is also a title he will be passing on at the end of the term.

But Hegarty will be hoping to offset the loss of that title by gaining another one . . . the Premier Division Championship with Dundee United, an achievement they just failed to do last season.

"It was disappointing," says Hegarty, "but it shows we are on the right lines."

"We've got to look to the future. Manager Jim McLean has us all thinking this way. It's the correct attitude, of course."

Flair

United were one of the most attractive teams in British football last season, combining superb soccer science with gifted individualism and presenting a side with flair, grace and poise.

Hegarty played his part. He was immaculate beside David Narey at the heart of the defence.

The player, once tagged a flop because he failed to make it as a striker, was a worthy winner of the Player of the Year Trophy. A fellow professional who has also burst into the international reckoning this year, St Mirren's highly respected left-back Iain Munro, pays glowing tributes to Hegarty.

"Paul really has got it all," he says in admiration. "It's difficult to spot a weakness in his play."

"He says he didn't make it as a striker because he couldn't turn fast enough, but there are more than a few opponents who must be baffled by that statement."

"He is cool and composed. You rarely see him flustered. He doesn't



go around shouting how good he is. He lets his football do the talking.

"I believe United will be a threat in the new season — just like St Mirren will be, too. We are both regularly classed as being 'nice' teams. What is a 'nice' team?"

"We'll be watching out for Hegarty and Dundee United in the new term."

Celtic will be pushed hard in their fight to retain their crown. Rangers, who along with their great Parkhead rivals have won the Premier title twice, dearly want to get their hands on it again and United along with the ambitious St Mirren will all be putting in their bids.

United may be the team to surprise them all. They have clever, gifted players and, of course, old Chelsea favourite Peter 'The Cat' Bonetti will be lining up for them.

They will have Raymond Stewart continuing to shine at right-back and they will have players such as Graeme Payne, Paul Sturrock, Davie Dodds and the versatile Iain Phillip producing the goods.

Most of all, though, they will have Paul Hegarty, tall and commanding, in the heart of their defence. That's a sound launching pad for success.

If any player has anything to prove in Scotland in the new season it must be Dundee's bustling striker Billy Pirie.

Quite simply, the player has scored a mountain of goals in the past three seasons in the First Division, but critics say he is far from being up to Premier Division standard.

Pirie has played in the Top Ten with his former club Aberdeen, but was far from successful and there was little surprise when the then Pittodrie manager Ally MacLeod slapped a free transfer tag on him.

It may have been a humiliating experience for the player who first made his name with Arbroath. Pirie was then a part-timer, working all hours in his job at the fish market, but



DUNDEE'S BILLY PIRIE - can he remain Britain's ace striker?

he still managed to wallop the ball into the back of the net with a degree of regularity.

Apart from his brief and unhappy encounter with Aberdeen Pirie has continued to score goals.

In two years he scored 71 goals in 72 League games! In stark black and white that means he has done better than any other goalscorer in British football in the past 40 years.

Why, then, is Pirie, not noted for being slow at pouncing on half-chances in crowded penalty-areas, a man with something to prove? Why does he still have to justify himself to his stern critics?

Obviously, the fact he scored those goals outside the Premier Division does count against him, but Pirie says logically: "I know what I have to do when I go out on to the pitch.

"My job is to score goals. I'm not greedy and I won't snatch at an opportunity when I know a colleague is in a better position. Football is all about winning and winning is all about scoring goals."

That ability has destroyed and demoralised defences. His speed on the turn is breathtaking. A player who allows him time and space is committing soccer suicide.

Pirie punishes hesitancy with cruel professionalism. He is the type of

goalscorer who looks for 'keepers making errors.

Pirie didn't have a happy season last time out. By his own phenomenal success rate of the past it was a flop. He hit 18 goals and that was a drop of over 20 on the previous term.

Why? There was a lot of talk about dressing-room squabbles with manager Tommy Gemmell. Pirie had the opportunity to go to Australian football where he has played in previous close seasons.

The player said it was a great offer from a club Down Under, but Gemmell refused to allow him to go.

Pirie was in and out of the side throughout the season and at one stage it looked as though he would be on the move. However, the player starts the new programme still on Dundee's books and he is looking forward to another go at Top Ten rearguards.

His former Aberdeen team-mate Joe Harper, the Premier Division's top scorer last season, could be put under pressure by the one-time reject.

It will be difficult for opposing teams to keep him quiet as he sets about screaming out his message in goals, goals and more goals.

The warning is clear to everyone. Billy Pirie is back in town . . . and he wants everyone to know it!

ANOTHER ALL STAR LINE-UP IN NEXT WEEK'S SHOOT ...

Colour: Ray Wilkins (Chelsea and England); Willie Young (Arsenal); team group of Italian Champions AC Milan; Allan Hunter (Ipswich); Gary Gillespie (Coventry) and Focus On Austin Hayes (Southampton).

Features: All the Scottish League fixtures for 1979-80 + Laurie Cunningham with his new club Real Madrid + Trevor Brooking talking about the promotion prospects of West Ham + American soccer writer Hanns J. Maier Jnr. gives his views on Tottenham's two Argentines Villa and Ardiles + Bob Latchford on his roles for Everton and England + Alan Shoulder (Newcastle) + Motherwell's Hugh Sproat — Scotland's costliest 'keeper + George Stewart (Hibs) + Club Spotlight on AC Milan + John Mahoney (Middlesbrough) + Kenny Sansom (Crystal Palace) + Derek Statham (West Brom) + stars talk about pre-season training + regular favourites — Ray Clemence, Gordon McQueen, Andy Gray, Derek Johnstone, News Desk, World Wide, Soccer In The States, Quiz and Go For The Double . . .

ALL IN SHOOT NEXT WEEK!

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JIM BAXTER SLAMS SCOTTISH FOOTBALL

If the game in Scotland is to maintain a reputable standard of living there has to be another major re-think — or the game will die with its boots on!

That's the candid opinion of the former legendary Rangers and Scotland star Jim Baxter, arguably the best player the country has produced since the last World War.

After four seasons of the new-look soccer scene in Scotland — three Divisions — he is convinced the standard of football has nose-dived, to the extent that it risks falling into third-rate status.

Baxter, the one-time slim, elegant wing-half, is particularly severe on the Premier Division, which has been won twice each by the Old Firm of Rangers and Celtic since its inception in 1975-76.

"With only ten teams competing it's tight. In fact it's so tight it squeaks," he says. "People will argue that it has stimulated better competition in Scotland, but I don't go along with that."

"The Top Ten has led to defensive, indeed negative football and does little for me. Certainly Rangers and Celtic don't have it their own way in the Division. However, that's because they've come down to everyone else's level!"

And significantly the Old Firm picked up the three major glittering prizes last season — Celtic winning the title and Rangers lifting both the Scottish Cup and League Cup trophies.

"I think it's staring everyone in the face that if the Scottish game isn't reorganised quickly we will lose any kind of credibility we have in world football. Right now we probably rate alongside the Irish ... and that's hardly a joke," Baxter adds.

Managers don't escape the all-time great's scathing tongue either. "The way some of them organise their teams they've more chance of getting the game stop-



Jim Baxter claims that Partick's Bobby Houston (above) is one of the most under-rated players in Scotland.

ped than they have of winning anything."

Baxter points to the empty spaces on the Scottish terraces to underline his observation — "You can't fool the punters, the people who pay their money ... and fewer and fewer are turning up each season.

"For instance, Rangers and Celtic are thinking of laps of honour when they get 30,000 for home games. Even when they meet the Old Firm are drawing just over 50,000."

"It's not so long ago that there would have been 100,000 at that game and maybe 50,000 others looking for tickets," he points out.

Baxter, who played at top-level in both Scotland and England, also thinks it's ludicrous to begin to compare the standards. "The game is different class in the South, and the competition is

much more ferocious.

"Personally, I feel there are too many clubs chasing too few spectators in Scotland. Until that is sorted out we can forget it."

But what bugs Baxter most is the decline and fall in standard on the field of play. "It's a different game now. I reckon the ball-winner has taken over from the ball-player, and that's bad.

"The Premier has by its very concept stifled individual talent, although fortunately players are still able to break the barrier.

"I doubt very much if I would get a kick at the ball if I was still playing because someone would mark me for 90 minutes!"

So who are the players Jim Baxter would pay money to see?

'Noticeable'

"Bobby Russell brought a breath of fresh air to Rangers when he broke through," Baxter enthuses, "but last season it was noticeable he was being marked that much tighter — and had to go deeper for the ball."

"Tommy Burns, of Celtic, is another player I admire. He is stylish and cocky and isn't afraid to take on defenders.

"Bobby Houston, Partick Thistle's right-winger, is perhaps one of the most under-rated players in Scotland. It was significant that Jock Stein tried to sign him when he was manager of Leeds United."

Baxter also admires Frank McGarvey, the St Mirren striker who was bought by Liverpool for £30,000.

So what does the future hold for Scottish Football?

"Not a lot," says Baxter. "Unless there is a dramatic rethink. We've got to streamline the set-up, perhaps to even one League."

"More important we've got to try to hang on to our top players. Otherwise, we're literally giving the game away!"



MacDonald has that superstar quality

JOHN MacDonald, a youngster who has played only a handful of first team games for Rangers, has been tipped as a future Scotland superstar — and by one of the most important men in world soccer!

F.I.F.A.'s Joao Havelange saw the Ibrox winger in action in a recent international youth tournament in Croix, France — a competition which Rangers won and after which MacDonald walked off with the Player of the Tournament award.

"I remember MacDonald because, like Johan Cruyff, he wore the number 14 shirt," Havelange explains. "One day he could be just as famous because he has all the qualities of an international player."

The F.I.F.A. chief was in Scotland recently and underlined his

admiration for MacDonald to Rangers boss John Greig, who introduced the teenager quietly into the Ibrox first team set-up towards the end of last season.

Greig says: "I saw no point in rushing the boy, but it is obvious to anyone who has seen John play that he has a lot of talent to offer."

Two of MacDonald's "fans" just happen to be Scotland full-backs, Rangers team-mate Sandy Jardine and Celtic captain Danny McGrain.

Jardine jokes: "In practice matches John has a habit of taking the ball up to you, nutmegging (pushing the ball



through an opponent's legs) and sprinting past. I had to have a word with him about that!"

McGrain saw MacDonald's skill at first hand last season when he was making his comeback after injury in the Celtic second team — in fact, on a couple of occasions the Ibrox youngster gave Danny a chasing.

Rangers, of course, have a tradition of producing quality wingers with conveyor belt regularity ever since the days of Alan Morton — better known as the Wee Blue Devil. MacDonald seems certain to follow in famous footsteps for allied to his touch-line skills he is a prolific goalscorer and can also double in a midfield role.

His expected breakthrough will inevitably lead to changes up-front at Ibrox. One widely tipped move is that Davie Cooper will switch from the left to the right wing to make room for MacDonald, with little Tommy McLean dropping out.

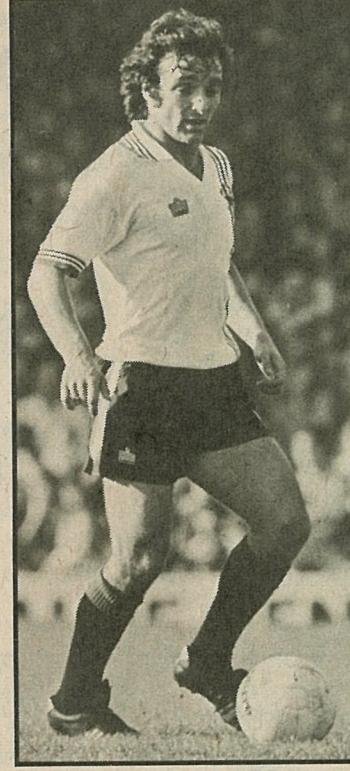
Certainly John Greig has made it clear to his staff, big names included, that no one can take a first team place for granted. Nevertheless, expect John MacDonald to make his mark this coming season — for sure!

TAKE A BREAK—IT'S

Quiz Time



- Two Brighton stars recently asked manager Alan Mullery for transfers... can you name them?
- Mike Saxby was transferred from which club to Luton Town for £200,000?
- Who was manager of Wales before Mike Smith took over?
- Crystal Palace named which former schemer, who had to quit the game through injury, as their new youth team manager?
- Fulham followed suit on the same day when they appointed Bobby Moore, Frank McLintock or Terry Mancini in the same capacity?
- Why did Brian Little's proposed £650,000 transfer from Aston Villa to Birmingham City fall through?
- Rearrange the jumbled letters to find the name and club of a top First Division goalkeeper... TEERP HNTSLIO (GNTNTMOIAH TRFSEO).
- Is Stuart Pearson, Steve Coppell or Lou Macari (right) known affectionately at Manchester United as 'Pancho'?
- With which Scottish club did Tottenham's Gordon Smith begin his League career?
- Derek Spence finished top goalscorer for which Third Division club last season?
- Which club, now in the First Division, were the last from the Third to reach the F.A. Cup Semifinals?
- Andy Lynch plays in the Scottish Premier Division for Rangers or Celtic?



13. England boss Ron Greenwood won a League Championship medal with Charlton Athletic, Chelsea or Coventry City in 1954-55, 1955-56 or 1956-57?

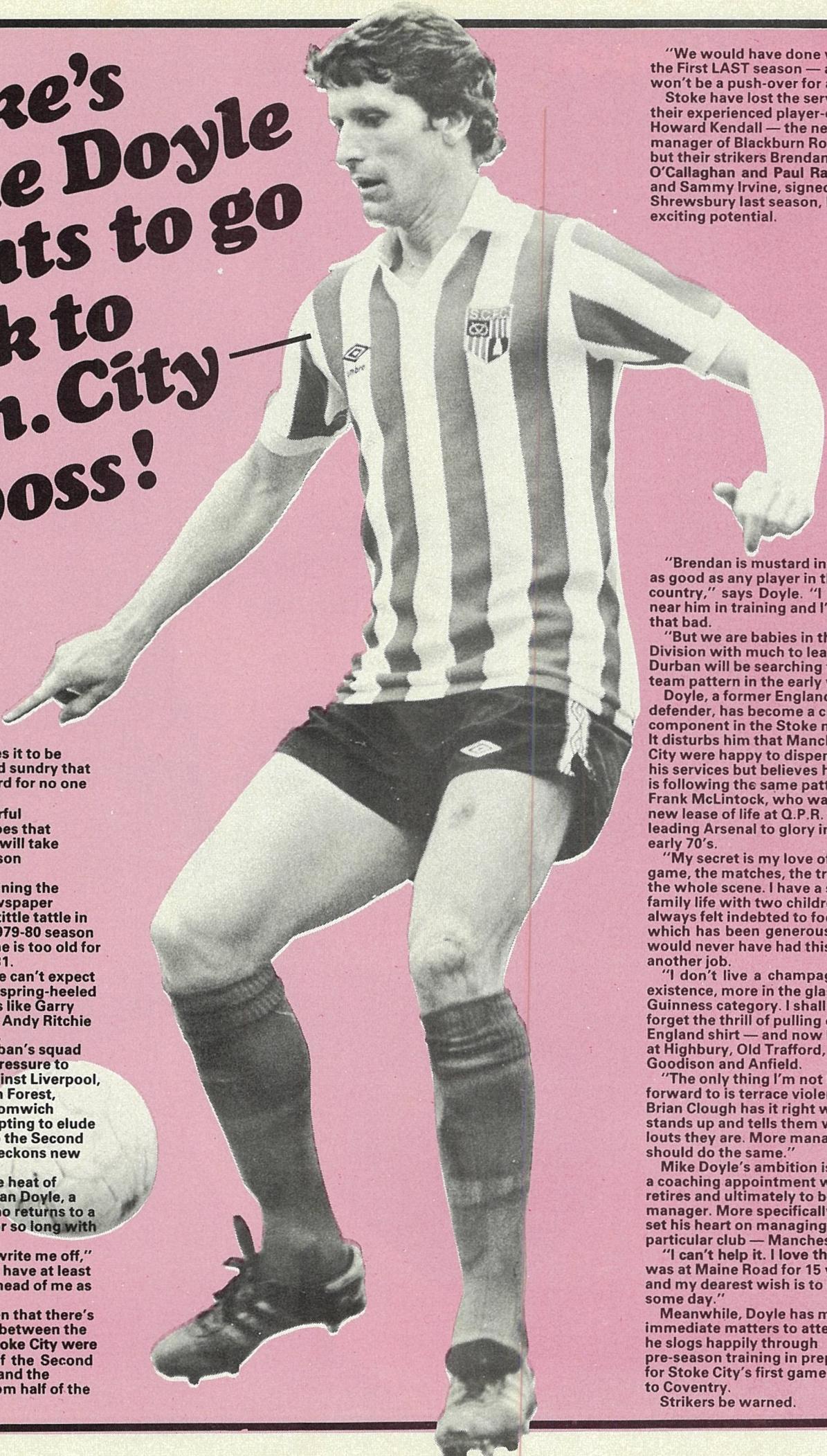
14. Have Burnley won the Second Division Championship once, twice or three times?

15. Bolton Wanderers' Willie Morgan has played for two other Football League clubs during his career... name them.

ANSWERS:

1. Striker Peter Ward and goal keeper Graham Mosely. 2. Keeper Peter Shilton (Nottingham Forest). 3. Steve Bruce (Mansfield Town). 4. Martin Hillswood (Blackpool). 5. Terry Mancini (Brentford). 6. A back (John Foord). 7. A forward (Lou Macari). 8. Pearson (Sheffield Wednesday). 9. St Johnstone (Terry Mancini). 10. Blackpool (Peter Shilton). 11. Crystal Palace (Steve Bruce). 12. Gillingham (Peter Shilton). 13. Chelsea (John Foord). 14. Twice in 1954-55, 1955-56, 1956-57. 15. Once in 1972-73. 16. Twice in 1977-78 and 1978-79. 17. Once in 1954-55. 18. Once in 1955-56. 19. Once in 1956-57. 20. Once in 1957-58. 21. Once in 1958-59. 22. Once in 1959-60. 23. Once in 1960-61. 24. Once in 1961-62. 25. Once in 1962-63. 26. Once in 1963-64. 27. Once in 1964-65. 28. Once in 1965-66. 29. Once in 1966-67. 30. Once in 1967-68. 31. Once in 1968-69. 32. Once in 1969-70. 33. Once in 1970-71. 34. Once in 1971-72. 35. Once in 1972-73. 36. Once in 1973-74. 37. Once in 1974-75. 38. Once in 1975-76. 39. 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Stoke's Mike Doyle wants to go back to Man. City — as boss!



MIKE Doyle wishes it to be known to all and sundry that he is a chopping board for no one in the new season.

Stoke City's powerful central-defender hopes that strikers in particular will take notice of his pre-season pronouncement.

For Mike is fast gaining the impression from newspaper reports and general tittle tattle in the wind up to the 1979-80 season that people believe he is too old for the elite Division at 31.

Surely, they say, he can't expect to mix it with young spring-heeled First Division strikers like Garry Birtles, Cyrille Regis, Andy Ritchie and Frank Stapleton.

Manager Alan Durban's squad will be under great pressure to compete equally against Liverpool, Everton, Nottingham Forest, Arsenal and West Bromwich Albion, whilst attempting to elude the trap door back to the Second Division that often beckons new arrivals.

No one will feel the heat of competition more than Doyle, a battling defender who returns to a Division he graced for so long with Manchester City.

"I want no one to write me off," he insists. "I reckon I have at least another four years ahead of me as a player."

"It's often forgotten that there's not much difference between the quality of football Stoke City were playing at the top of the Second Division last season and the standard in the bottom half of the First."

"We would have done well in the First LAST season — and we won't be a push-over for anyone."

Stoke have lost the services of their experienced player-coach Howard Kendall — the new manager of Blackburn Rovers — but their strikers Brendan O'Callaghan and Paul Randall, and Sammy Irvine, signed from Shrewsbury last season, have exciting potential.

"Brendan is mustard in the air, as good as any player in the country," says Doyle. "I can't get near him in training and I'm not that bad."

"But we are babies in the First Division with much to learn. Alan Durban will be searching for a team pattern in the early weeks."

Doyle, a former England defender, has become a crucial component in the Stoke machine. It disturbs him that Manchester City were happy to dispense with his services but believes his career is following the same pattern as Frank McLintock, who was given a new lease of life at Q.P.R. after leading Arsenal to glory in the early 70's.

"My secret is my love of the game, the matches, the training, the whole scene. I have a settled family life with two children. I have always felt indebted to football, which has been generous to me. I would never have had this life in another job."

"I don't live a champagne existence, more in the glass of Guinness category. I shall never forget the thrill of pulling on an England shirt — and now I'm back at Highbury, Old Trafford, Goodison and Anfield."

"The only thing I'm not looking forward to is terrace violence. Brian Clough has it right when he stands up and tells them what louts they are. More managers should do the same."

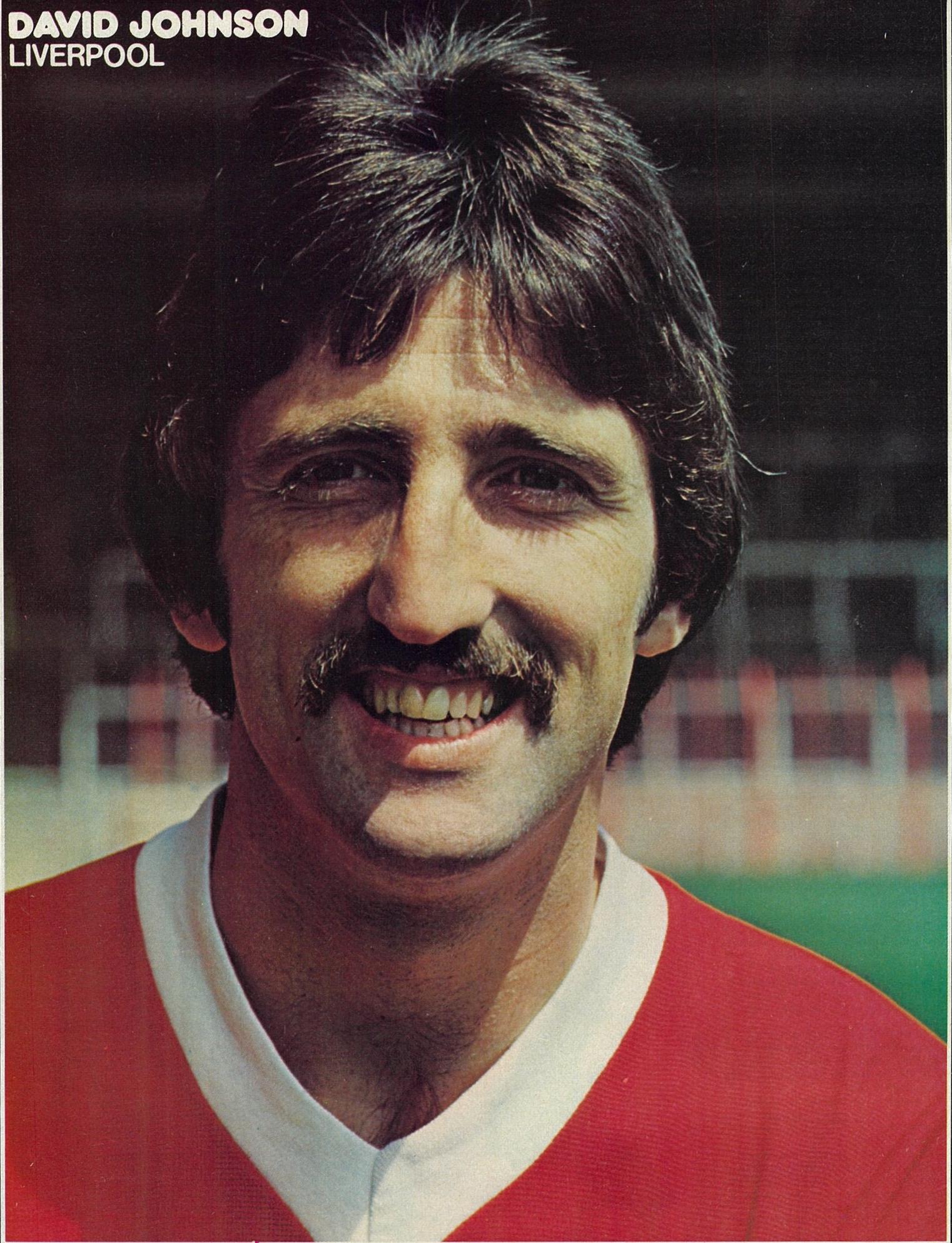
Mike Doyle's ambition is to take a coaching appointment when he retires and ultimately to become a manager. More specifically, he has set his heart on managing one particular club — Manchester City.

"I can't help it. I love the place. I was at Maine Road for 15 years and my dearest wish is to return some day."

Meanwhile, Doyle has more immediate matters to attend to as he slogs happily through pre-season training in preparation for Stoke City's first game at home to Coventry.

Strikers be warned.

DAVID JOHNSON
LIVERPOOL



SHOOT!